



NORTH PARK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CEDF 5100: Christian Education and Formation in the Church

June 6-10, 2022

EQUIP

Instructor: Dr. Beth Seversen

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Location: [Carol Joy Holling Conference Center](#) Near Omaha, Nebraska

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

CEDF 5100 Christian Education and Formation in the Church (3SH). This course will introduce the tensions and dimensions of historical, theological, and pedagogical foundations of Christian Formation. Time will be given to discussing leadership concerns as pastors of Christian Formation. Students will be encouraged to engage the material realizing other courses will pursue the topics in more detail. This course will facilitate a broad awareness of Christian formation in the Church.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Summarize** historical, theological, and pedagogical foundations and theories of Christian education and formation and their principles.
2. **Design** a 4 week/lesson Curriculum for a specific population of Christian Education in their ministry context using the Backward Design model and informed by the nature of learning.
 - 2.1. Students will be able to **write** four learning objectives for the overall curriculum.
 - 2.2. Students will be able to write lesson/weekly learning objectives for each lesson for a four-week curriculum for Christian Education learners in their ministry context.
 - 2.3. Students will **create** four assessments that support each of these learning objectives for learners in their Christian Education ministry context for a four-lesson/week curriculum.
 - 2.4. Students will **plan** instructional content that support these four learning objectives for each of the four lessons/weeks for a curriculum for Christian Education.
 - 2.5. Students will **select** learning activities that support the learning objectives for each of the four lessons for a curriculum for learners in their Christian Education ministry context.
3. **Evaluate** models and theories of Christian education and formation in the student's ministry context by proposing enhanced strategies.
4. **Describe** the theories of emerging adulthood as a lifespan developmental stage between adolescence and adulthood and generational theory as relevant to emerging adulthood.
5. **Apply** specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in Christian Ministry by illustrating how students will employ them in their ministry contexts.

We will work towards the Seminary Learning MACF Goals of:

- Convey the Christian tradition for appropriation in the life and mission of the church
- Articulate the significance for ministry of educational, organizational, and spiritual models and theories of Christian formation.
- Demonstrate a theologically grounded ministerial identity and growing capacity to integrate it with the ministry of Christian formation.
- Engage diversity and exhibit growth towards intercultural competence for ministry reflective of God's global redemptive work.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Instead of 6 longer expensive course textbooks we will use multiple shorter texts in this course. Used books or e-books are fine.

- Barna Group, 2019 *The Connected Generation: How Christian Leaders Around the World Can Strengthen Faith & Well-Being Among 18-35-Year Olds* [9781945269486] 176 pp (Select Chapters)
- Cordoza, Freddy, ed. *Christian Education: A Guide to the Foundations of Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019. [978-0801095597] 339 pp
- Lang, James M. *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning*. 2016. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. [978-1118944493] 245 pp
- Setran, David P., and Chris A. 2013. Kiesling. *Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood: A Practical Theology for College and Young Adult Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. [978-0-8010-3956-0] 238 pp
- Sprinkle, Preston. 2015. *People to be Loved: Why Homosexuality Is Not Just An Issue*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. [978-0310519652] 224 pp
- Seversen, Beth. 2020. *Not Done Yet: Reaching and Keeping Unchurched Emerging Adults*. Downers Grove: IVP Praxis. [978-0-8308-4157-8] 220 pp
- *Yarhouse, Mark. 2019. *Costly Obedience: What We Can Learn from the Celibate Gay Christian Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. [978-0310521402] 230 pp (Select Chapters)
- Wright, Christopher. 2010. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan [97803310291121] 287 pp (Select Chapters)

Required Journal Articles, Chapters, Pages in Canvas include:

- Maddix, Mark A., Jonathan H. Kim, and James Riley Estep, Jr. 2020. *Understanding Faith Formation: Theological, Congregational and Global Dimensions*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Maddix, Mark A., and James Riley Estep, Jr. *Practicing Christian Education: An Introduction for Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. [978-0801030963] 170 pp (Select chapters)
- McKee, Jonathan, and Thomas W. McKee. 2012. *The New Breed: Understanding and Equipping the 21st Century Volunteer*. Simply Youth Ministry.
- Merriam, Sharan. B., and Laura L. Bierema. 2014. *Adult Learning: Linking Theory and Practice*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Pazmino, Robert W. 2008. *Foundational Issues in Christian Education: An Introduction in Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

*Students may substitute one of the following texts by Mark Yarhouse if they have read *Costly Obedience*.

- Yarhouse, Mark A and Julia Sadusky. 2020. *Emerging Gender Identities: Understanding the Diverse Experiences of Today's Youth*. Grand Rapids: Baker (Brazos Press). [978158743434] 256 pp
- Yarhouse, Mark A. 2015. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues In a Changing Culture*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic. [9780830828593] 161 pp

COURSE FORMAT:

This is a week intensive format. Readings, assignments and group work will be a necessary part of the course. Thus, 100 percent attendance is required. Pre and post intensive course work is required.

ADVANCE COURSEWORK:

1. Read the following pages/chapters, come to class prepared to discuss the concepts, theories, and research, and **take the open book online quiz** on this reading by Sunday June 5 at 11:59 PM.
(10% of final grade)

Cardoza, *Christian Education*, Part 1 (pp 1-71)

Lang, *Small Teaching*, Introduction, Ch 1, Ch 2 (pp 1-62)

Not *Done Yet*, Introduction, Ch 1, Ch 2, Ch 3, Ch 4, Ch 5 (pp 1-75)

Costly Obedience, Ch 1, Ch 2, Ch 3 (pp 1-112)

2. **Pre-course Assignment on a Christian Educator Profile.** This is a “mini” research project. Students will select a leader in Christian education/movement from Chapter Cardoza Chapter 2, or another Christian education of personal choice ***approved by instructor***, discover and report on the following four points using the following four categories as your four subheadings in the body of your paper. Include an Introduction and Conclusion.
 - 1.1. Personal History: A brief history of the person’s life including key events, people/mentors, and beliefs that impacted her/his philosophy and practice of Christian education and formation.
 - 1.2. Historical Context: The cultural/social/educational/historical context, condition (s), or problems to which the Christian educator sought to address, correct, enhance, or respond
 - 1.3. Analysis and Critique: An analysis including critique of the person’s contribution to Christian education and formation in the church
 - 1.4. Applicable Lessons for Current Ministry Context: Your summary of personal lessons learned from this Christian educator applicable to your ministry context.

3 Page Paper Details: The student will research the Christian educator and the movement she/he initiated citing 5 academic resources using the above four bullet points as subheadings. Write and submit a three page, double-spaced, well-written proofread paper. See the Rubric in Canvas for this assignment before writing it. The paper will be based on online library research of the individual. Personal interviews (if a contemporary Christian educator), videos, and other sources may also be used. The bibliography must include at least five sources to receive full credit. Follow Turabian 9th edition “notes” style citations with page numbers and Reference List. Be prepared to give a short presentation in class. (10% of final grade)

3 Minute Presentation: The presentation will include a one-page typed handout that summarizes the Christian educator’s contribution/influence on Christian education and formation in the church (or parachurch) that includes a cover page and bibliography. Length: 5 double-spaced pages plus title page and bibliography. The student will present their report using pedagogical methods from the course textbook, *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning For retention*. (5% of final grade)

Two-part assignment is worth a total of 15% of students’ final grade.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS:

1. **Online Quiz on Required Advance Course Reading (10 percent final grade)**
Students will take an online quiz over the pre-course reading. The quiz will be open book and comprised of a combination of matching, true/false, fill in the blank, and short essay questions. Each question has a specific point value. The quiz will go live on June 1 and close on June 5 at 11:59 PM.
2. **Pre-course Assignment: Christian Educator Profile (15 percent final grade)**
Students see the assignment listed in the previous section Advance Coursework.