



TYNDALE
Seminary

**Course Syllabus
WINTER 2012**

**LEARNING TO TEACH & TEACHING TO LEARN¹
CHED 0552**

**January 9 to April 13, 2012
MONDAYS, 1:00-3:50 PM**

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Course Resource Page: <http://class.tyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theologian Edward Farley notes that “any movement which is to survive over time must discover means of transmitting itself to future generations.”² The church should be concerned with Christian education not just for its survival, but also for mission in the world. However, many pastors and ministry leaders fail to recognize the importance of Christian education in congregation. In addition, leaders often lack basic pedagogical theory and are poorly equipped. This course provides a vision for Christian education and seeks to understand some of its major challenges in the church today. Drawing from key passages in Scripture and the wider field of educational theory, learners will develop a biblical theology for Christian education, be familiar with key pedagogical theorists, reflect on the identity of the teacher, study Jesus’ model of teaching, experiment with and evaluate different educational approaches. The goal is to build strong theological and pedagogical foundations for effective educational leadership to facilitate Christian faith formation and mission in the world.

¹ The catchy title for this course is taken from one of the courses offered at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT) where I was Visiting Scholar from 2000-01. The content of this course is however my own.

² Edward Farley, “Can Church Education be Theological Education?” In J. Astley, L. J. Francis and C. Crowder (Eds.), *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), pp. 31-44.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Grasp a biblical theology for Christian education; understand its role in the life and mission of the church and some of its challenges today.
2. Develop a spirituality of teaching and nurture an ongoing “conversation” between the life of the teacher and teaching acts through journal and reflective practice.
3. Appreciate some of the major emphases in Jesus' model of teaching and their applications to educational ministries.
4. Develop a working knowledge of some important educators (inside and outside of the Church) and experiment with a variety of teaching methods through creative “teaching labs” (for children, youth or adults).
5. Understand key characteristics of adult learners to facilitate teaching and growth.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Karen B. Tye, [*Basics of Christian Education*](#) (Atlanta, GA: Chalice Press, 2000).

Parker Palmer, [*The Courage to Teach*](#) (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 1998/2007).

Marlene D. LeFever, [*Creative Teaching Methods*](#), 2nd Edition (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook Publishing, 2004).

Selected Articles (on Library Reserved or Moodle course resource page-
<http://class.tyndale.ca>)

These articles, along with Tye and Palmer readings will be the basis of discussion learning on select days. Your preparation and engagement will be graded (10 % of total grade; evaluation criteria posted on Moodle).

Note: If you did not complete the assigned readings, you may not contribute to the discussions though you will be part of the group. Students will take turns to lead or report at each discussion.

B. RECOMMENDED

Gary A. Parrett and S. Steve Kang, [*Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful*](#) (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009).

Tim Chester and Steve Timmins. *Total Church: A Radical Reshaping around Gospel and Community* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008).

Anthony B. Robinson, *What's Theology got to do with It? Convictions, Vitality and the Church* (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2005).

Williamson, Clark M. and Ronald J. Allen, [*The Teaching Minister*](#) (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Reflective Journals. Due dates: Jan. 30, Mar. 5, Apr. 9; 30% of final grade.

This course seeks to nurture a “spirituality of teaching” through the disciplines of journaling and reflective practice (active reflection & reflective action). To help you nurture this habit as shepherd-teacher-leader, you will write a series of THREE journal reflections integrating class lectures and readings with your current teaching ministry.

Each journal should include the following:

- (a) Brief outline of one major theme (with relevant quotes) in Tye, Palmer & LeFever, with questions and/or implications for teaching ministry.
- (b) One class lesson (lectures, articles or discussions) and implications for teaching ministry.

This assignment replaces book reviews for this course.

Length:

2 pages (single-spaced), submitted to me via Moodle by 10 PM on the due dates.

Grading criteria:

Clear outline one major theme (with relevant quotes) in each of Tye, Palmer, LeFever and class lessons.

Questions and/or implications for teaching ministry.

2. Creative Teaching Lab (Group): Due dates vary; 20% + 5% = 25% of final grade.

“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I’ll remember; involve me and I’ll know.”
(Chinese proverb).

Learning to teach cannot really be effectively taught in a classroom without a “teaching lab” component. You will work in a small group and conduct ONE teaching session before the entire class (duration 50 minutes). Your group will identify the target group of learners (children, youth or adults) and the particular pedagogical approaches you want to experiment with in LeFever, *Creative Teaching Methods* (e.g. role play, drama, discussion, case study, simulation

game, debate, story). Your teaching lab should demonstrate a clear mastery of the context (biblical text) and educational principles appropriate to the learners.

The group leader will submit your lesson plan to the instructor 2 days in advance of the presentation. A roster of presentation will be provided later.

Grading criteria:

Clear lesson plan and presentation; cohesive group work; engage learners.

3. Gifted Teacher Project: Due: April 20, 2011; 35% of final grade.

You will conduct an in-depth interview with an experienced and gifted teacher (church or public settings). You will ask this person to outline core values in his/her teaching ministry and how they are nurtured and expressed. A selection of questions for this exercise will be posted on Moodle.

Relate what you discover in this interview-research with insights from Karen Tye, [Basics of Christian Education](#), Parker Palmer, [Courage to Teach](#), Marlene LeFever, [Creative Teaching Methods](#), and significant class readings and lectures. Conclude with questions, implications and insights for your development and growth as pastor-leader-teacher. Please select your “gifted teacher” carefully, and this person’s work should be in line with your future vocational aspiration.

Length: 10-12 pages, double-spaced, submitted to me via Moodle by 10PM on due date.

Grading criteria: Posted on Moodle.

D. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WORK & PENALTY FOR LATE WORK

All assignments are to be submitted on Moodle by 10:00PM on the due date.

NOTE: Late work will be penalized at the rate of ONE MARK FOR EACH DAY, inclusive of Saturdays and Sundays. Late work will be graded but will not receive any comments from the instructor. This policy is slightly different from what is in the Academic Calendar.

Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Reflective Journals (3X10%)	30%
Creative Teaching Lab (Group) is 20% Participation for group work is 5%	25%
Gifted Teacher Project	35%
Readings and Discussion Group Learning	10%
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Note: My intention in this introductory course is to expose you to a selection of important topics in educational ministries. Thus, readings and class lectures may sometimes not overlap in order to broaden learning.

January

9	Introduction to Course Fostering community & culture of learning Background of teaching & ministry	Siew (on Moodle)
16	Whither Christian Education (CE)? Discussion: Farley	Farley (Library Reserved)
23	Biblical foundations & vision for CE Discussion: Robinson & Tye	Tye Intro., chs. 1-2 Robinson ³
30	Teaching as Spiritual Act Creativity & Teaching Discussion: Nouwen & Palmer	Nouwen (reserved) Palmer Intro. & 1 LeFever 1-3 ⁴ <u>Due: Journal # 1</u>

February

6	Jesus Master Teacher I Thomas Groome & Shared Praxis Model	Tye 3 LeFever 4-5 Groome (reserved)
13	Community meal @ Siews	Palmer 2, Tye 4

³ Tyndale Library reserved.

⁴ Complete "teaching building" and "creativity" test at end of chapter.

	Discussion: Tye & Palmer	LeFever 7, 9
20	Family Day (Public Holiday)	
27	David Kolb, Experiential Learning Learning Styles Jesus Master Teacher II Discussion: Tye & Palmer	Tye 5-6 Palmer 3
March		
5	Jean Piaget & theory of cognitive development Power of Story	LeFever 6, 8 <u>Due:</u> Journal # 2
12-16	Reading Week	
19	Erik Erikson & youth identity Discussion: Tye & Palmer	Palmer 4 & 5 LeFever 10-11 Tye 7-8, postscript
26	Understanding adult learners Preaching & teaching	Preaching article Bass, Adult faith formation (reserved)
April		
2	Teaching Lab ⁵	Palmer 6-7 LeFever 12-13
9	Teaching Lab Summary of learning Course evaluation	<u>Due:</u> Journal # 3 (Include reflections on your “Background & ministry experience”) <u>Due:</u> April 20, Gifted Teacher Project.

⁵ This course is about “learning to teach.” Good teaching is founded upon sound theory but it is nurtured through practice as it’s also an art. The student is encouraged to invest as much energy in the development of practice (through creative teaching lab, lesson planning with others) as in acquisition of knowledge (lectures, reading, journal reflections, writing). Many students deeply valued this exercise in the course.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Children

2008. Allen, Holly Catterton (ed.) *Nurturing Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices* (Cascade).
2008. Moore, Walker. *Rites of Passage Parenting: Four Essential Experiences to Equip Young Kids for Life* (Nelson).
2007. Marty, Martin E. [*The Mystery of the Child*](#) (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company).
2005. Greene, Sheila (editor). [*Researching Children's Experience*](#) (Sage Publications)
2005. May, Scottie, Beth Posterski, Catherine Stonehouse and Linda Cannell. [*Children Matter: Celebrating Their Place in the Church, Family, and Community*](#) (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)
2005. Mercer, Joyce Ann. [*Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood*](#) (Chalice Press).
2004. Beckwith, Ivy. [*Postmodern Children's Ministry*](#) (Zondervan/Youth Specialties)
2004. Krych, Margaret A. [*The Ministry of Children's Education: Foundations, Contexts and Practices*](#) (Fortress Press)
2004. Radcliff, Don. (Editor) *Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, Research & Applications* (Cascade Books)
2004. Yust, Karen Marie. *Real Kids Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives* (Jossey Bass)
2003. Miller-McLemore, Bonnie. *Let the Children Come: Reimagining Childhood from a Christian Perspective* (Jossey Bass)
2002. Keefer, Mikal. [*Children's Ministry that Works!*](#) Revised edition. (Group Publishing)

2000. Westerhoff III, John. *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Revised Edition (Morehouse).
1998. Coles, Robert. *The Moral Intelligence of Children: How to Raise a Moral Child* (Plume)
1998. Stonehouse, Catherine. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey* (Baker Books).
1997. Dawn, Marva V. [*Is It a Lost Cause?: Having the Heart of God for the Church's Children*](#) (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company)
1991. Berryman, Jerome W. [*Godly Play: An Imaginative Approach to Religious Education*](#) (Harper San Francisco)
1990. Coles, Robert. [*The Spiritual Life of Children*](#) (Houghton Mifflin Company)
1979. Bushnell, Horace. [*Christian Nurture*](#). Reprinted from 1861 edition, with introduction by John M. Mulder (Baker Book House)

Youth and Adult

2009. Merriam, S. B. (ed.). *The New Update on Adult Learning Theory*. (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass).
2008. Brookfield, S.D. and Hess, M. J. (Eds.). *Teaching Reflectively in Theological Contexts: Promises and Contradictions*. (Malabar, Florida: Kreiger).
2006. Brookfield, S.D. *The Skillfull Teacher*. Second edition. (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass).
2006. Dean, Kenda Creasy. *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church* (Zondervan).
2006. Merriam, Sharan B, Rosemary S. Caffarella, and Lisa M. Baumgartner. *Learning in Adulthood*, Third Edition. (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass).
2005. Brookfield, S.D and Preskill, S. J. *Discussion as a Way of Teaching*. (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass).
2004. LeFever, Marlene. [*Creative Teaching Methods*](#), 2nd edition (David C. Cook)
2003. Graham, Donovan L. *Teaching Redemptively: Bringing Grace and Truth into Your Classroom* (Purposeful Design)

2003. Grahmann, Bob. [*Transforming Bible Study—Understanding God's Word Like You've Never Read It*](#) (Inter-Varsity Press)
2002. McKenzie, Leon and R. Michael Harton. [*The Religious Education of Adults*](#) (Smyth & Helwys)
2001. Dunn, Rick. *Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students: A Guide for Youth Workers, Pastors, Teachers and Campus Ministers* (InterVarsity Press).
2001. Simmons, Harry R. and Jane Wilson. [*Soulful Aging: Ministry through the Stages of Adulthood*](#) (Smyth & Helwys)
1994. Cranton, Patricia. *Understanding and Promoting Transformative Learning* (Jossey-Bass).
1999. Tisdell, Elizabeth J. *Spirituality in Adult and Higher Education* (Jossey Bass).
1998. Dean, Kenda Creasy and Ron Foster. *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry* (Upper Room).

Inter-generational Learning

2008. Martineau, Mariette, Joan Weber and Leif Kehrwald. *Intergenerational Faith Formation: Learning the Way We Live* (Twenty-third Publications).
2008. Vanderwell, Howard (editor). *The Church for all Ages* (The Alban Institute).
2004. DeVries, Mark. *Family-based Youth Ministry*, Revised Edition (InterVarsity Press).
1989. Harris, Maria. *Fashion Me a People* (Westminster/John Knox).

Cross-cultural

2007. Hill, Kenneth H. [*Religious Education in the African American Tradition: A Comprehensive Introduction*](#) (Chalice Press).
2004. Conde-Frazier, Elizabeth, S. Steve Kang and Gary A. Parrett (eds.) *A Many Colored Kingdom: Multicultural Dynamics for Spiritual Formation* (Baker Academic)
2004. Van Engen, John (ed.) [*Educating People of Faith: Exploring the History of Jewish and Christian Communities*](#) (Wm. B. Eerdmans).

2003. Holtz, Barry. *Textual Knowledge: Teaching the Bible in Theory & Practice* (Jewish Seminary of America)

2003. Antone, Hope S. *Religious Education in Context of Plurality and Pluralism* (Quezon City, Philippines: New Day Publishers, and Hong Kong Christian Conference of Asia)

2003. Lingenfelter, Judith E. and Sherwood G. Lingenfelter. *Teaching Cross-culturally: An Incarnational Model for Learning and Teaching* (Baker Books)

2003. Talvacchia, Kathleen T. *A Spirituality of Multicultural Teaching* (Chalice Press)

Christian Higher Education

2004. Palmer, Parker. [*A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life*](#) (Jossey-Bass).

2004. Wolterstorff, Nicholas. [*Educating for Shalom: Essays on Christian Higher Education*](#) (Wm. B. Eerdmans).

2002. Jones, L. Gregory and Stephanie Paulsell (eds.) *The Scope of Our Art: The Vocation of the Theological Teacher* (William B. Eerdmans).

2002. Wolterstorff, Nicholas P., edited by Gloria Stronks and Clarence W. Joldersma, *Educating for Life: Reflections on Christian Teaching and Learning* (Baker Academic)

2001. Groome, Thomas. *Educating for Life: A Spiritual Vision for Every Teacher and Parent*. Thomas More Press.

1999. Hodgson, Peter C. [*God's Wisdom: Toward a Theology of Education*](#) (Westminster/John Knox Press)

1998/2007. Palmer, Parker J. [*The Courage to Teach*](#) (Jossey-Bass).

1991. Christensen, C. Roland, David A. Garvin and Ann Sweet. [*Education for Judgment: The Artistry of Discussion Leadership*](#) (Harvard Business School Press).

1988. Farley, Edward. *The Fragility of Knowledge: Theological Education in the Church and the University* (Fortress Press).

1984. Kolb, David. *Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Learning and Development* (Prentice-Hall).

1982. Adler, Mortimer J. *The Paideia Proposal: An Educational Manifesto* (Macmillan Publishing Company).

Educational Ministries of the Church

2009. Parrett, Gary A. and S. Steve Kang. *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful* (IVP Academic).

2008. Bass, Dorothy C. and Craig Dykstra (Editors). [*For Life Abundant: Practical Theology, Theological Education and Christian Ministry*](#) (William B. Eerdmans). If you are looking toward a ministry in the academy and what it means to be involved in education of a new generation of church pastors and leaders, this is a collection of rich reflections by theological educators and pastors.

2008. Chester, Tim and Steve Timmis. *Total Church: A Radical Reshaping around Gospel and Community* (Crossway Books). These pastors focus on three critical themes in their church-planting: gospel, mission and community, with many dynamic educational principles. One of the best books I read on contemporary critique of church.

2008. Nelson, C. Ellis. *Growing Up Christian: A Congregational Strategy for Nurturing Disciples* (Smyth & Helwys).

2006. Yust, Karen Marie and E. Byron Anderson. [*Taught by God: Teaching and Spiritual Formation*](#) (Chalice Press).

2005. Osmer, Richard. *The Teaching Ministry of Congregations* (Westminster/John Knox Press)

2005. Robinson, Anthony B. *What's Theology got to do with It?: Convictions, Vitality and the Church* (Alban Institute). Though not a book on Christian education as such, it has a clear chapter on education in the life of the church. Anything by Robinson on pastoral ministry is rich and insightful reading. Robinson was for many years a pastor in the United Church of Christ in Seattle, and now is a consultant to church renewal. Visit his website which is full of resources (www.anthonbrobinson.com).

2004. Burgess, Harold W. *The Role of Teaching in Sustaining the Church* (Bristol House, Ltd.)

2004. Murphy, Debra Dean. *Teaching that Transforms: Worship as the Heart of Christian Education* (Brazos Press).

2003. Bracke, John M. and Karen B. Tye. [*Teaching the Bible in the Church*](#) (Chalice Press).

2003. Farley, Edward. [*Practicing Gospel: Unconventional Thoughts on the Church's Ministry*](#) (Westminster/John Knox Press). Again, not a book on Christian education, but he has a whole section on CE and pastoral care. Farley is a theologian with the church at heart.

2002/1994. Copenhaver, Martin B. *To Begin at the Beginning: An Introduction to the Christian Faith, Revised and Expanded* (The Pilgrim Press)

2002. Halverson, Delia. [*Teaching & Celebrating the Christian Seasons: A Guide for Pastors, Teachers, and Worship Leaders*](#) (Chalice Press).

2002. Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry* (Abingdon Press). See especially chapter 8, "The Pastor as Teacher: Christian Formation."

2001. Anthony, Michael J. *Introducing Christian Education: Foundations for the 21st. Century* (Baker)

2001. Burgess, Harold. *Models of Religious Education: Theory and Practice in Historical and Contemporary Perspective* (Evangel Publishing House)

2000. Karen B. Tye. [*Basics of Christian Education*](#) (Chalice Press)

1998. Dykstra, Craig. [*Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices*](#) (Geneva Press).

Dykstra taught Christian education at Princeton for many years before becoming VP Religion at Lilly Endowment. A very helpful discussion of the Christian practices in Christian education and faith formation in the church.

1998. LeBar, Lois E. *Education That is Christian* (Baker)

1998. Melchert, Charles F. [*Wise Teaching: Biblical Wisdom and Educational Ministry*](#) (Trinity Press International)

1997. Bass, Dorothy C. (Editor). *Practicing our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* (Jossey-Bass).

Mainline churches are looking into the traditional practices (disciplines) of the Christian church as an important source of Christian formation in the church.

1997. Gangel, Kenneth O. and Howard G. Hendricks, ed. *The Christian Educators's Handbook on Teaching* (Baker)

1997. Keely, Barbara Anne. [*Faith of Our Foremothers: Women Changing Religious Education*](#) (Westminster/John Knox Press).

1997. Seymour, Jack L. *Mapping Christian Education: Approaches to Congregational Learning* (Abingdon Press)

A thoughtful presentation of what Christian education is, and a great overview of various common approaches to this ministry in the church. He suggests a helpful way forward.

1992. Gregory, John Milton. [*The Seven Laws of Teaching*](#), Revised ed., 32nd. Printing (Baker Book House)

1991. Williamson, Clark M. and Ronald J. Allen, [*The Teaching Minister*](#) (Westminster/John Knox Press)

A clear and concise call for pastors to fulfill their major role as educational leaders for their congregations and rich biblical theology for this responsibility. One of the best books I have encountered on pastor as teacher in the church.

1998. Anthony, Michael J. ed. *Foundations of Ministry: An Introduction to Christian Education for a New Generation* (Baker).

1990. Osmer, Richard Robert. [*A Teachable Spirit: Recovering the Teaching Office in the Church*](#) (Westminster/John Knox Press).

1988. Farley, Edward. *The Fragility of Knowledge: Theological Education in the Church and the University* (Fortress Press).

1985. LeFever, Marlene. [*Creative Teaching Methods: Be an Effective Christian Teacher*](#) (David C. Cook).

1980/1999. Groome, Thomas. *Christian Religious Education: Sharing our Story and Vision* (HarperSanFrancisco/Jossey-Bass).

Jesus as Teacher

Nicholas Burbules, "Jesus as a Teacher," is reflection of his teaching style for moral education. See website: <http://faculty.ed.uiuc.edu/burbules/papers/jesus.htm> (think he's on faculty at U of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign).

2000. La Verne Tolbert, *Teaching Like Jesus: A Practical Guide to CE in Your Church* (Zondervan).

1998. Horne, Herman H. [*Jesus the Teacher: Examining His Expertise in Education*](#). Revised and updated by Angus M. Gunn (Kregel).

1994. Robert H. Stein, *The Method and Message of Jesus* (Westminster/John Knox Press).

1990, reprinted 1991/1995/1998. Pheme Perkins, *Jesus as Teacher* (Cambridge University Press).

1982. Grassi, Joseph A. *Teaching the Way: Jesus, the Early Church, and Today*. University Press of America.

Nonformal Education/Social Justice

2009. Preskill, Stephen and Stephen D. Brookfield. *Learning as a Way of Leading: Lessons from the Struggle for Social Justice* (Jossey-Bass).

1990. Freire, Paulo. [*Pedagogy of the Oppressed*](#). Thirty Second Printing. (Continuum)

1970. Illich, Ivan. *Deschooling Society* (Harper & Row).

1963/1938. Dewey, John. [*Experience and Education*](#) (Macmillan Publishing Company).