



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus WINTER 2013

LEARNING TO TEACH & TEACHING TO LEARN¹ CHED 0552

January 14 to April 22, 2013
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

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 in 2000-01. The content of this course is 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.

strong theological and pedagogical foundations for effective educational leadership to facilitate Christian faith formation and mission in the world.

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, 1996/2004).

Selected Articles (on Moodle 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).

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

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

Marva V. Dawn, [Is It a Lost Cause?: Having the Heart of God for the Church's Children](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997).

Dykstra, Craig. [Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices](#), 2nd edition (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1999/2005).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Reflective Journals. Due dates: Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Mar. 4, Mar. 25 (30% of final grade).

This course seeks to nurture a “spirituality of teaching” through the disciplines of journaling and reflective practice. To help you nurture this habit as shepherd-teacher-leader, you will write a series of four 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 & discussions) and implications for teaching ministry.

This assignment replaces the book review for this course.

Length:

2 pages (single-spaced), submitted to me via Moodle by 1 PM on the due dates.

Grading criteria:

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

Questions and/or implications for teaching ministry sparked by this theme.

4 Journals X 7.5 % = 30 %

2. Creative Teaching Lab (Group): Due dates vary (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:

Clarity, educationally sound & engaging presentations (LeFever, class theories), creative work (15 %)

Your participation in group lesson planning (10 %)

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 (except assignment #1) are to be submitted via 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.

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

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 (4 X 7.5%)	30%
Creative Teaching Lab (Group) is 15% Participation for group work is 10%	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

14

Introduction to Course

Siew (Moodle)

	Fostering community & culture of learning	Fill "Backgrounds" (submit on Moodle)
21	Whither Christian Education (CE)? Discussion: Farley	Farley ³
28	Biblical foundations & vision for CE Discussion: Robinson & Tye	Tye Intro., chs. 1-2 Robinson <u>Due</u> : Journal #1
February		
4	Teaching as Spiritual Act Creativity & Teaching Discussion: Nouwen, Palmer, LeFever	Nouwen Palmer Intro. & 1 LeFever 1-3 ⁴
11	Jesus Master Teacher I Thomas Groome & Shared Praxis Model	Tye 3 LeFever 4-5 Groome (reserved) <u>Due</u> : Journal #2
18	Family Day (Public Holiday)	
February		
25	Community meal @ Siew's Discussion: Tye & Palmer	Palmer 2, Tye 4 LeFever 7, 9
March		
4	David Kolb, Experiential Learning Learning Styles Jesus Master Teacher II Discussion: Tye & Palmer	Tye 5-6 Palmer 3 <u>Due</u> : Journal #3
11-15	Reading Week	
18	Jean Piaget & theory of cognitive development Power of Story	LeFever 6, 8
25	Erik Erikson & youth identity Discussion: Tye & Palmer	Palmer 4 & 5 LeFever 10-11 Tye 7-8, postscript

³ All articles for class discussion can be found on Moodle.

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

Due: Journal #4

April		
1	Understanding adult learners Discussion: Preaching & teaching	Preaching article Bass, Adult faith formation (Moodle)
8	Teaching Lab ⁵	Palmer 6-7 LeFever 12-13
15	Teaching Lab Wrap up Course evaluation	Due: Gifted Teacher, April 22

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)

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 expected 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 value this exercise in the course.

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)
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

2006. Dean, Kenda Creasy. *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church* (Zondervan).
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)

1999. Merriam, Sharon B. and Rosemary S. Caffarella. *Learning in Adulthood, Second edition.* (Jossey Bass)

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).

1990. Brookfield, Stephen D. *The Skillful Teacher* (Jossey-Bass).

Inter-generational Learning

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

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).

2000. Westerhoff III, John. *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Revised Edition (Morehouse).

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

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 vocation in the academy, involved in education of a new generation of church pastors and leaders, this is a collection of rich reflections by experienced theological educators and pastors.

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).

Christian Education & Faith Formation in Church

2009. Carkuff Williams, Cassandra D. *Learning the Way: Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities* (Alban Institute).

An interesting look into how the church has formed disciples from its earliest days and what we can learn.

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

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.

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 CE as such, it has a brilliant chapter on education in the church from a pastoral perspective. Anything by Robinson on pastoral ministry is rich and insightful reading. He was for many years a pastor in the United Church of Christ in Seattle, and now is a consultant to church renewal. His website is a rich resource for pastors (www.anthonybrobinson.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 CE, but it 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)
Copenhaver seeks to bring us back to the catechetical model of faith formation in the early church.
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 CE at Princeton Seminary for many years before becoming VP Religion at The Lilly Endowment, an active charity that supports the education, religion and social development in US. 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)
LeBar occupied the chair of CE at Wheaton College for many years and under her tutelage, many pastors and CE professors have carried her legacy all over the world.

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 CE is, and a helpful overview of the common approaches in the church.

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 the congregation and a rich biblical theology for this responsibility. One of the best books I have read 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).

This is considered a "classic" by many, both in mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic schools.

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).