



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Philosophical Foundations CEEF6301

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Christian Education Division

Emily Dean, Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty, Christian Education

emilywdean@gmail.com

601-341-8832 (before 9:00 p.m.)

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to study educational philosophies that have influenced Christian education because of their respective responses to the metaphysical, epistemological and axiological questions. The study provides an investigation into the contemporary influence of alternative philosophies on the ministry of Christian education.

Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For the 2015-2016 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Theological and historical perspective:* Students will develop a personal view as they compare and contrast secular philosophies with Christian, biblical and historical positions and perspectives.
2. *Disciple making:* Principles and practices of education and underlying theories will be explored and applied to contemporary disciple making methodologies and Christian education programs.
3. *Spiritual and character formation:* Students will compose a personal philosophy of Christian education integrating the concepts, principles, and ideas introduced in this course with their own experiences.

Course Description

This course is a study of educational philosophies that have influenced Christian education because of their respective responses to the metaphysical, epistemological and axiological questions. The study provides an investigation into the contemporary influence of alternative philosophies on the ministry of Christian education.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Apply their knowledge and comprehension of the basic philosophical questions of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology; and knowledge of the major philosophical movements and their educational implications in order to provide a foundation for the practice of Christian Education in the church.
2. Value the study of philosophy and its implication in the practice of Christian education.
3. Be able to formalize and communicate a personal philosophy of education.

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts

Estep, James R., Michael R. Anthony and Greg R Allison. *A Theology for Christian Education*, Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2008.
Knight, George R. *Philosophy & Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective*, 4th ed. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2006.

Optional Texts

Groome, Thomas H. *Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1980.

Pazmiño, Robert W. *God Our Teacher: Theological Basics in Christian Education*, 3rd. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

Course Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching-learning methods will be employed in this course. Students will engage in personal research, presentations, and class discussions. The professor will present foundational material through lecture and interactive class experiences.

Units of Study

A THEOLOGY for CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Unit 1: Theology and Christian Education
- Unit 2: Biblical Principles for Christian Education
- Unit 3: Doctrinal Foundations and Christian Philosophy Pt 1
- Unit 4: Doctrinal Foundations and Christian Philosophy Pt 2
- Unit 5: Doctrinal Foundations and Christian Philosophy Pt 3
- Unit 6: The Christian Educator and Theology

PHILOSOPHY and EDUCATION

- Unit 7: Philosophic Issues in Education
- Unit 8: Philosophies and Education Pt 1
- Unit 9: Philosophies and Education Pt 2

Unit 10: Theories of Education Pt 1

Unit 11: Theories of Education Pt 2

PHILOSOPHY and CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Unit 12: A Christian Approach to Philosophy

Unit 13: A Christian Approach to Education

Unit 14: Refining a Personal Philosophy of Education

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Unless specified, all papers should be double-spaced, written according to Turabian 6th edition regarding footnotes, headings/subheadings, margins, pagination, cover page, etc.

1. **Reading.** Students will read *A Theology for Christian Education*, as well as *Philosophy and Education*. Students will be expected to discuss the content of the two text as well as incorporate ideas and principles presented in these texts into their *Personal Philosophy of Education* paper. Students will also be asked to report the quantity of the text read for a numerical grade. **Due Date: Friday October 16, 2015**
2. **Class or Black Board Discussions.** Students will respond to questions from the textbooks. Selected questions from each text will be posed. Students should thoughtfully answer each question. Online students will submit responses in the discussion boards and should respond to at least two classmates' posts. Specific instructions will be posted.
3. **Philosophy/Theory Handouts.** Students will prepare a 3-page handout on an assigned educational philosophy and a 3-page handout on an assigned educational theory. One of the five philosophies detailed in *Philosophy and Education* and one of the five educational theories discussed in Knight's text will be assigned. Students should draw on sources beyond the primary texts. Content (2 pages) should include brief history, key personalities, principles and ideas, classical and modern expressions and examples of the philosophy or theory. The third page should include implications for contemporary Christian education. Handouts are expected to be available to other students via discussion boards. Format does not have to be Turabian; creativity in design and layout is encouraged. **Due Date: September 11, 2015, Philosophy Handout; Friday September 25, 2015 Educational Theory Handout**
4. **Reaction Papers.** Students will also generate two 2-3 page reaction papers detailing how their assigned philosophy and theory relates to the other philosophies and theories. Analyze, compare and contrast the principle ideas. **Due Date: Friday September 18, 2015 Philosophy Paper; Friday October 2, 2015 Educational Theory Paper**
5. **Personal Presentation.** Students will prepare and present their assigned educational theory to the class. The presentation should include some form of a slideshow. The

presentation also should be recorded to a video or audio file (use mp3) and then uploaded to the discussion board so that everyone can view it. Specific instructions will be provided through Black Board communication and in the class. **Due Date: Friday September 25, 2015**

6. **Personal Philosophy.** Students will write a *Personal Philosophy of Education*. This work (10-12 pages) should be typed and double-spaced following the guidelines of the 6th edition of *Turabian* with the proper NOBTS cover page. See the guide included in this syllabus for further instructions. This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric. **Due Date: Monday October 12, 2015**
7. **Participation.** Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. A grade will be assessed based upon attendance, attentiveness, and attitude.

Course Policies

Writing Assignments: Unless specified, all papers should be double-spaced, written according to *Turabian* 6th edition regarding footnotes, headings/subheadings, margins, pagination, cover page, etc.

Grading

Reading Assignment	5%
Handouts 2 @ 15 pts ea	30%
Reaction Papers 2 @ 10pts ea	20%
Presentation	15%
Personal Philosophy of Education	25%
Participation	5%

The course will use the NOBTS grading scale as listed below:

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	70-76
E	Below 70

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Late Work: An automatic 10-point deduction will be taken for work submitted after the due date. Additional points will be deducted based on the number of days the submission is late.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course and will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Additional Information

Blackboard and SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

Correspondence with the Professor: Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any question you may have regarding this course.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

Technical Support: Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website. If you experience any problems with your Blackboard account you may email BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu or call the ITC at 504-282-4455, ext. 8180.

Philosophical Foundations CEEF 6301

Personal Philosophy of Education Guide

1 Peter 3:13-16 says, *Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.*

The purpose of this work is to cause you to think through the things that you believe and to be able to make a biblical defense of those concepts. Answer each of the following questions **completely** giving scriptural proofs for your reasons. Quote the Scripture, and explain how it backs your position.

Metaphysical Questions:

1. What is ultimately real?
2. Where did the universe come from?
3. Why do we exist?

Epistemological Questions:

1. What is true?
2. Is truth relative or absolute?
3. Is knowledge subjective or objective?

Axiological Questions:

What is of value?

Ethics:

1. What is good?
2. Are ethical standards and moral values absolute or relative?
3. Does the end ever justify the means?
4. Who or what forms the basis of ethical authority?

Aesthetics:

1. What is beautiful?
2. What is “good” art? By what standard, if any, can art be labeled “beautiful” or “ugly?”
3. Does beauty inhere in the art object itself, or does the eye of the beholder supply beauty?

Educational Principles:

1. What is the purpose of education?
2. What is the role of the teacher?
3. What is the role of the learner?
4. What is the appropriate curriculum for education?

Rubric for Personal Philosophy Paper CEEF 6301
 Christian Education Division, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Student: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Professor: _____

ELEMENT	Unsatisfactory 0	Partially Proficient 1	Proficient 2	Exemplary 3	Points
Content	Shows inadequate integration of biblical theology with philosophy	Shows adequate integration of biblical theology with philosophy	Shows good integration of biblical theology with philosophy	Shows excellent integration of biblical theology with philosophy	___/3
	Shows inadequate understanding of educational philosophy	Shows adequate understanding of educational philosophy	Shows good understanding of educational philosophy	Shows excellent understanding of educational philosophy	___/3
	Makes poor practical application to teaching ministry	Makes adequate practical application to teaching ministry	Makes good practical application to teaching ministry	Makes excellent practical application to teaching ministry	___/3
	Demonstrates little or no understanding of a philosophy of Christian Education	Demonstrates some understanding of a philosophy of Christian Education	Demonstrates good understanding and reflection on philosophy of Christian Education	Demonstrates excellent understanding and reflection on philosophy of Christian Education	___/3
	Fails to explain ideas clearly and concisely	Explains some ideas clearly and concisely	Explains most ideas clearly and concisely	Explains all ideas clearly and concisely	___/3
	Fails to include Philosophy elements or components	Includes some Philosophy elements or components	Includes most Philosophy elements or components	Includes all Philosophy elements or components	___/3

ELEMENT	Unsatisfactory 0	Partially Proficient 1	Proficient 2	Exemplary 3	Points
Organization	Uses an incoherent structure that fails to group related ideas	Uses an inconsistent structure that attempts to group related ideas	Uses a structure that groups some related ideas in a logical progression	Uses a consistent structure that groups related ideas in a logical progression	___/3
	Demonstrates poor writing skills: structure, grammar, word usage, spelling	Demonstrates adequate writing skills: structure, grammar, word usage, spelling	Demonstrates good writing skills: structure, grammar, word usage, spelling	Demonstrates excellent writing skills: structure, grammar, word usage, spelling	___/3
Style	Shows poor use of Turabian writing guidelines in headings, spacing, and citations	Shows adequate use of Turabian writing guidelines in headings, spacing, and citations	Shows proficient use of Turabian writing guidelines in headings, spacing, and citations	Shows exemplary use of Turabian writing guidelines in headings, spacing, and citations.	___/3
Writing Mechanics	Numerous errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling distract the reader and requires revision.	Edits the text, but errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling reduce readability.	Edits the text with minor errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	Edits the text with no errors in grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	___/3
Total Points:					___/30

Additional Comments:

Selected Bibliography

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