

CECM 3320 Lifespan Christian Education

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Dr. David R. Lema, Jr.
Spring, 2014 (142) Monday 6:00-8:00 pm

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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a foundational understanding of Christian education ministry as it relates to children, youth, and adults in the local church. The emphasis of this course is consideration of the issues of faith development, age-graded learning characteristics, and Southern Baptist programming.

Student Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate a foundational understanding of Christian education, faith development, and age-graded learning characteristics by successfully completing mid-term and final exams.
2. Students will exhibit the development of personal perspectives related to spiritual education by completing analyses of Christian education experiences across the lifespan in a local church.
3. Students will demonstrate ability to design and implement appropriate Christian education experiences by preparing a training session for leadership or parents.

Textbooks

Group Publishing. *Children's Ministry in the 21st Century*. Loveland: CO Group Publishing, 2007.

LifeWay. *Kids Ministry 101: Practical Answers to Questions about Kids Ministry*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 2009.

Fields, Doug. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right*. El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 2002.

Ham, Ken and Britt Beemer. *Already Gone: Why Your Kids Will Quit Church and What You Can Do to Stop It*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2009.

Walter, Jim. *Understanding Adults 25 Years and Older*. Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2001.

Free Download: http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_Ad_Understanding_Adults.pdf.

Course Methodology

This course will consist of lectures, power point presentation, group discussions, and video presentations.

Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than nine classroom hours will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each period. The student is responsible to contact the professor if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken.

2. Reading. Students are expected to read the textbooks. A one page report on each textbook will be presented two weeks before the final exam. An accountability question will be asked at the time of the final exam.

3. Observation Reports. Students are to observe four Christian education experiences in the local church setting. The four sessions are to be with four different age groups (i.e., preschool, children, youth, adult). For each observation students will prepare a 2-page written report including the following sections:

- a. The stated or implied purpose of the session, the setting and the target audience
- b. A description or diagram of the physical setting
- c. Any curriculum or materials used
- d. Leadership information (number of volunteers, training, planning, etc.)
- e. General evaluation of the session

The Turabian style guide should be used in preparing the reports.

4. Portfolio: The students will assemble a portfolio of materials supportive of ministry to preschoolers, children, youth and adults. The materials are to be submitted in a three-ring binder with dividers as indicated. A complete list of items to be included are attached to this syllabus and may also be found on Blackboard under Course Documents.

5. Examinations: Students are expected to take all examinations at the scheduled times. Tests will cover materials presented through class discussion, Power Point presentation, and the assigned reading. Make-up exams are more difficult than original exams and *must be scheduled and taken within two weeks of the original exam date. All make-up exams are assessed a five-point penalty.* A student who misses an exam because of illness or personal reasons should contact the professor prior to the exam to indicate the problem and get a suggested time for make-up. A student who missed for no valid reason should be expected to take a make-up at the professor/grader's convenience. *Make-up exams will not be given more than two weeks past the original exam date and will be given the grade of zero.*

6. Training Session: Each student will develop a training session for leadership, parents or both. Students will submit an outline of the session, including session objectives. Copies of materials such as handouts and power points should be included.

Additional Information

1. Assignment Policies. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 5 point penalty and 1 point for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted after the final exam.

2. Blackboard: Each student must register for the course on Blackboard. The student is responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, and course documents.

3. Laptops: Laptops may be used in class only for taking notes and other activities assigned by the professor. Other activities are strictly prohibited.

4. Cell phones: Cell phones must be silenced during class time. Under no circumstances is a phone to be answered in class.

Course Evaluation

Observation reports (4)	20%	Exams	20%	Training Session	25%
Portfolio	25%	Reading	10%		

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
January 27	Introduction to Course Biblical Foundations The Importance of Childhood Ministry	
February 3	Faith Development Children and Salvation	
February 10	Children and Worship Teaching Methods	
February 17	The Learning Environment Programming and Resources	
February 24	Administrative Issues Leader Development/Parent Education	
March 3	Youth Education: Purpose Theories of Adolescence	Preschool/Children's Observations Due
March 10	Youth Ministry Issues Cultural Context	Take-Home Exam
March 17	Youth Ministry Evangelism Youth Ministry Leadership	Take-Home Mid-term Due
March 24	Spring Break	
March 31	Youth Ministry Models Programming and Resources	Youth Observation Due
April 7	Adult Education: Purpose Adult Learning Theory	
April 14	Life Issues in Adulthood Adult Ministry Issues	Training Session Due
April 21	Family Ministry Intergenerational Ministry	
May 5	Adult Ministry Models Outreach and Worship	Portfolio Due
May 12	Cultural Context Programming and Resources	Adult Observation Due
	Final Exam	

Bibliography: (See professor for updated listing)

Lifespan Christian Education Portfolio

The portfolio is to be submitted in a 3-ring binder. All documents are to be either placed in a clear document sleeve or 3-hole punched. Loose documents are not to be placed in the portfolio. All documents distributed by the professor are to be placed in the portfolio as indicated. Section dividers are to be labeled. All contents should be placed in the portfolio in the order indicated. **Documents listed in bold print are to be secured by the students**. All other documents will be provided by the professor.

Portfolio Documents

- I. **Preschool and Children's Ministry**
 - a. How to Become a Christian
 - b. Zionese
 - c. **Article on Children and Salvation – (read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) Submit a copy of the article.**
 - d. **Article on Children and Worship –(read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) Submit a copy of the article.**
 - e. **Article on Children and Prayer - –(read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) Submit a copy of the article.**
 - f. Using the Bible with Preschoolers
 - g. Choosing and Using a Bible with Children
 - h. **Sample Preschool and Children's Ministry Policies – two sets**
 - i. **Volunteer Application**
 - j. **Article on Working with Preschool and Children's Ministry Volunteers–(read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) Submit a copy of the article.**
 - k. Ministry of Multiplication
 - l. **10 ideas for reaching preschoolers, children, and their families**
 - m. Miscellaneous (items distributed by the professor or those of interest located by the student)

- II. **Youth Ministry**
 - a. **Purpose Statement**
 - b. **Sample Youth Ministry Policy Manual**
 - c. **Ministry Structure (Programming schedule – ex: Sunday School classes, small groups, large group)**
 - d. **Event Calendar (minimum 2 month calendar)**
 - e. **Volunteer Application**
 - f. **Article on Leading a Student to Christ - –(read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) Submit a copy of the article.**
 - g. **Article on Youth and Worship - –(read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) Submit a copy of the article.**
 - h. **10 Ideas for Reaching Teenagers**
 - i. Miscellaneous (items distributed by the instructor or those of interest located by the student)

- III. Adult Ministry
 - a. **Ministry Structure (Programming Schedule – Sunday School classes, small groups, etc.)**
 - b. **Article on Adults and Prayer** -(read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) **Submit a copy of the article.**
 - c. **Article on Adults and Worship** - (read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) **Submit a copy of the article.**
 - d. **Article on Witnessing to Adults** - (read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) **Submit a copy of the article.**
 - e. **Article on Volunteers Who Work with Adults** - (read, review, and summarize in ½ to 1 page) **Submit a copy of the article.**
 - f. **10 Ideas for Reaching Adults**
 - g. **Miscellaneous** (items distributed by the instructor or those of interest located by the student)