

The Contemporary Context of Christian Education
CESW 9402

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Mission Statement

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.

Division of Christian Education Ministries Mission Statement

The mission of Christian Education Ministries Division is to equip servant leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries by stimulating personal and spiritual growth of students and faculty; providing quality academic training, exploring the practical dynamics of Christian Education Ministries, and evaluating all that is done by using the mission and core values of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Course Description

A survey is made of the contemporary context of Christian Education. Special attention is given to the disciplines of anthropology, political science, education, psychology, sociology, medicine, social work, missions, and evangelism as they influence the development and role of the Christian educator. An effort is made to enhance the student's understanding of the world confronting the Christian educator and to equip him/her to impact more effectively this world as a Christian educator.

Course Objectives

When the student has completed this seminar, he/she should be able to:

1. Analyze the social conditions which influenced the development of Christian education.
2. Discuss the processes and conditions which are characteristic of Christian education.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the kind of world which presently confronts Christian education.
4. Identify characteristics of Christian education.
5. Analyze prevailing social values which have perceptions and definitions of poverty, justice, equality, and deviance.
6. Write an essay characterized by critical thought on the role of Christian education in the prevention of the problem you choose to study.
7. Formulate a personal view of the relationship between Christian education and society.
8. Act as a more effective change agent in confronting issues in society through Christian education.
9. Trace the development of some institution relevant to the student's life and work
10. Articulate his/her personal values as related to contemporary social problems.

Required Texts

1. Hurley, Jennifer, ed. *Opposing Viewpoints: American Values*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2000.
2. Midgley, Karger & Brown. *Controversial Issues in Social Policy*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2003.
3. Myers, David. *The American Paradox: Spiritual Hunger in an Age of Plenty*. Yale University Press.
4. Trattner, Walter. *From Poor Law to Welfare State (6th edition)*. New York: The Free Press, 1999.
5. Keller, Timothy. *Ministries of Mercy, 2nd edition*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey, 1997.
6. Gushee, David. *Toward a Just and Caring Society*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.

Each student is expected to read one weekly news magazine (i.e. Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report): Choose one issue to which you will give special attention during the semester. Choose from the following: world issues, war, juvenile problems, health care, homosexuality, church issues, divorce, or abuse. Information gained through this reading should be utilized in weekly seminar discussions. As a part of the final exam, the student will present a critical analysis of the topic chosen.

Course Methodology

1. Lectures by the professor, reinforced by dialogue with the students will introduce the seminar and provide an overview of the social context of Christian education.
2. Two seminar papers will be written and presented by each student. One paper is to focus on one aspect or movement in the social context of Christian education. The second paper will focus on a significant personality within the selected movement. Each paper is to be typed according to the current edition of Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, and is to be a minimum of twenty pages in length. A copy of each paper is to be provided for the professor and each seminar participant. Papers are due to seminar participants **one week** in advance of presentation. Each seminar member is expected to study the paper prior to the seminar meeting and to be able to critique the paper.
3. Each seminar member will interview two professionals within a field of choice to determine the person's view of the influence of his/her profession on Christian education. The interviews may be utilized in either or both seminar papers.
4. Seminar involvement, critical research, and analytical thought are required. The student's insights, readings, and research will be utilized.
5. A written final examination will require the student to demonstrate the ability to assimilate, analyze, and react to seminar material.
6. Seminar members will lead class discussion of the texts.
7. Each student is to write a critique of the six texts. The report should include one page of summary and two pages of personal reaction and evaluation. Each report is due on the date the text is schedule for discussion in the seminar.

Course Evaluation

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|------------------------|-----|
| Paper (Issue/Movement) | 20% |
| Paper (Person) | 20% |
| Final | 20% |
| Seminar Involvement | 20% |
| Reading Reports | 20% |

Course Outline

- I. An Overview of the Social Context of Christian Education
- II. Community Leaders
- III. Discussion of Reading (Texts)
- IV. Presentations-Movements
- V. Presentations-Person
- VI. Evaluation/Celebration
- VII. Final

Possible Seminar Paper Topics

Contemporary Issues of Choice
Christian Education and Legal Issues
Social Functions of Christian Education
Social Processes and Christian Education
Christian Education and Home Missions
Christian Education and International Missions
Christian Education and Politics
Christian Education and the Class System
Christian Education and Minorities
Women and Christian Education
The Population Crisis and Christian Education
The Homosexual and Christian Education
The Black Churches and Christian Education
The Poverty Issue and Christian Education
Christian Education and Retirement
Christian Education and Unemployment
Christian Education and Sexism
Christian Education and Racism
Christian Education and Ageism
Christian Education and Housing
Christian Education and Environment
Christian Education and Crime
Women in Ministry
Women in Christian Education
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Christian Education and the Fundamentalist Movement
Promise Keepers
Spirituality and Social Work/Psychology
Civil Rights Movement
Home School Movement
Juvenile Crime
Settlement Houses – Past and Present
Women Suffrage Movement
Capital Punishment
Assisted Suicide
Genetic Engineering
Aids Crisis
Aid to Families
Group Work
Juvenile Court
Salvation Army
Volunteers of America
American Red Cross
Mental Health Movement
Head Start
Medicaid and Social Renewal
Non-marital Births
Guns and Violence
Native Americans
Adoption
Children's Defense Fund
Cohabitation
Conservatives and Ecology
Diversity
Private School Movement
Fathers as Single Parents
Gender Roles
Race and Bigotry
Single Parent Families
Parenting Issues
Death and Grief
Pornography and Christian Education
Habitat for Humanity
Multi Site Church Ministry
Church Planting
Fundamentalism
FEMA

Personalities

Jane Addams

Mary P. Follett

John Dewey

Charles Loring Brace

Dorothea Dix

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Grace Abbott

Clifford Whittingham Beers

Harry Hopkins

Martin Luther King

Daniel Moynihan

Mary Baker Eddy

Julia Lathrop (Public Welfare)

Whitney Young (Urban League)

William Booth

Booker T. Washington

Francis Willard

Clara Barton

Dr. Richard C. Cabot

Mary Richmond

Frances Perkins

Eleanor Roosevelt

Saul Alinsky

William E. B. DuBois

Henry Ward Beecher

President Carter

Rosa Parks

Condoleezza Rice

Others of your choice. Please submit name to professor for approval prior to beginning research.

Presentations

Each student's presentations and papers should involve thorough research and critical thought. Utilize various teaching methods. Present your understanding of how the issues and leaders you research have impacted and currently impact Christian Education.

Tentative Seminar Schedule

First Session, Fri/Sat, Feb. 10, 11

Introduction/Goal Setting, Discussion of Current Issues

1. Read American Values
2. Read The American Paradox
3. Read Controversial Issues in Social Policy
4. Read From Poor Law to Welfare State

Discussion of Issues Chosen

1. The Role of the Christian Educator
2. Community Issues and the Church

Second Session Fri/Sat, Apr. 7, 8

- Discussion of Current Issues
- Speaker – Church and Social Ministry
- Report on Issue Chosen
- Ministries of Mercy (book)
- Toward a Just and Caring Society (book)
- Presentation of Research Papers – Person and Issue
- Take Home Final Exam
- Evaluation of Paper by Seminar Members
- Graduation

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