

8. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education courses are designed for lay people and church leaders who are preparing or upgrading themselves for various roles in the educational ministries in church, para-church organizations or mission fields. The emphasis is on building a biblical/theological philosophy of education to guide the ministry of making and educating disciples of Jesus Christ.

ECF500/ **THE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

CE101

(3 credits, offered annually on Semester 1)

The focus is to examine the theological foundations of Christian education, the history of Christian education and the various expressions of a Christian philosophy of education. A clear and cogent theological, historical and philosophical understanding will have special significance for pastors and lay leaders to develop a sound Christian philosophy of Christian education to guide the educational ministries in the church.

ECF501 **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

(3 credits)

This course examines the relationship between human development, faith development and spiritual growth. Focus is on the implications of this relationship for creating ministry experiences that facilitate Christian maturity.

ECF502 **CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY AND MINISTRY FORMATION**

(3 credits)

This course examines the research on the developmental psychology and spiritual formation of children from birth to twelve years old. The integration will be of interest to both parents and church educators in the faith development of children. Teaching and structuring models of children's ministry in the church will also be included.

CS101 **SPIRITUALITY FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

(3 credits)

The organizing/centering framework for this course will be the Lord's Prayer in Matthew, Chapter 6. This course will have four components: establishing the framework for Christian Spirituality in its biblical and historical development; relationship with God; relationship with self; relationship with others.

CS504 **SPIRITUAL RETREAT EXPERIENCE**

(3 credits)

The course will have two components: Teaching Segment (content-oriented) and Experiential Segment (process-oriented). It aims to prepare participants for an experience in a spiritual retreat. Through the retreat, the experience will provide a model for students to cultivate and incorporate this spiritual discipline into their Christian life and ministry. The preparation will be done through the teaching segment to provide the biblical, historical perspective concerning the purpose and dynamics of a spiritual retreat. Both segments will incorporate discussions related to the issues and demands of present day Christian living.

ECF510 **EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

(3 credits)

This course will examine the principles and theories for effective administration in educational ministry settings. The focus is on the integration of biblical concepts and ministry functions, for examples, structuring programmes, programme evaluation, implementing change, staff development, and others.

- ECF511 LEARNING THE CRAFT OF TEACHING**
(1.5 credits)
Examines the teaching acts of Jesus, the theories of learning to gain an understanding of the principles and methods of effective and creative Christian teaching. Emphasis is on the process of designing teaching plans which demonstrate creative teaching strategies and relevance to ministry contexts.
- ECF512 FACILITATING ADULT LEARNING**
(1.5 credits)
This course will examine theories of learning in adulthood. Emphasis is on the practice of developing effective educational approaches to encourage active learning.
- ECF513 BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**
(3 credits)
This course examines both the foundation and pillars of marital life (traits and dynamics of strong and lasting marriages) as well as how to help marriages that are devitalized, conflicted or strained. It seeks to do so from an integrated perspective, blending biblical principles with the social sciences. It will deal with contemporary issues facing the family such dual-career, gender role changes, divorce and remarriage as well as therapeutic approaches to helping couples in conflict or crisis.
- ECF514 SCRIPTURE RECITATION AND STORY TELLING: SKILLS IN PERFORMANCE ART FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
(1.5 credits)
This course aims to equip teachers and practitioners in Christian Education with a high level of awareness of performance skill in communication. The substance of all Christian communication lies in the text of the Bible itself, and a key mode of transmission is the story-telling form. It is imperative that we read the Word effectively, and hold listeners' attention as we tell the 'old, old story' of the redemptive acts of God in Jesus Christ.
- This course consists of two parts. The first half of the course looks at the principles of effective oral delivery, covering the essentials of phonetics and pronunciation. It culminates in the discipline of Scripture recitation, so internalizing the Word that it finds adequate and meaningful expression when read or 'performed'. The second half examines the genre of story-telling, and explores the potential for communicating truth in Scripture narratives. Christian story-telling needs to uncover or recover its convicting power as exemplified by the prophet Nathan (David's chaplain), and demonstrated by the world's greatest story-teller, Jesus of Nazareth.
- ECF520 RESEARCH METHODS AND MINISTRY: QUALITATIVE**
(3 credits)
The primary purpose is to understand the nature of qualitative research as well as to cultivate the skills of observation and interviewing to carry out field research in the style, form and discipline of anthropological and naturalistic inquiry. The ultimate application of these knowledge and skills is to enrich those aspects of Christian ministry which are fulfilled through human interactions such as missions, evangelism, church building and education.

ECF521 RESEARCH METHODS AND MINISTRY: QUANTITATIVE

(3 credits)

While the focus is on the use of descriptive statistics in analyzing data, the course will guide participants in constructing their own simple survey questionnaires, to critique test items, interpret, organize and present the results.

ECF524 EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: LEARNING FROM FIELD EXPERIENCE

(3 credits)

To explore specific issues relating to Christian Education, Spirituality and Research Methodology. The seminar is designed to allow participants to draw from field and classroom experience for in-depth learning. Seminar topics may include the following: Culture Research, Field-based learning/Practicum, Promoting Senior Adults' Development in Action Learning, and others.

CE391 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GUIDED STUDY

(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study pertaining to Christian Education. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member in the department. For students planning to write a MCS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.