

COS 123 Formation for Discipleship – July 7-15, 2016

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I very much look forward to our work this summer! Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance or have questions at the e-mail address above.

I. Course Description:

This course grounds the student in the theology and the core practices of personal and congregational formation and discipleship. It examines the ministry of the church as a means of discipleship -- nurturing faith, Christian values, and ways of life among members of the congregation and wider community. It is designed to give students skills to facilitate Christian discipleship education in different kinds of churches, as well as locate and develop resources and ideas to enhance educational ministries. This course will also examine Christian education from the perspective of different groups, including adults, youth and young adults, children, families, etc. The needs of people in different cultures, as well as the connections between Christian education and other aspects of congregational life and discipleship such as preaching, worship, pastoral care, etc. will be addressed. Students are encouraged in this course to engage their minds, but also their spirits, experiences, senses and creativity. Christian discipleship education that responds to a variety of learning styles and supports the giftedness of all has the capacity to change lives. Discipleship that changes lives engages the mind, body, spirit, and soul of individuals and churches. Practical skills for evaluating, planning, and designing educational experiences are central to the class, as is the pastor's role as mentor and servant. Obviously, this is a tall order for one class, and there is always a tension between time available and material to be covered. At the same time, it is my hope that the course will be fun as well as informative, and that the format will allow you some space to explore your own questions and utilize your gifts. By the end of the class, students will be able to:

II. Student learning Objectives (SLOs):

1. Articulate a theological basis for the Wesleyan emphasis on spiritual disciplines and practice them as a means of grace.
2. Explain and implement the General Rules and the practices of small groups in a congregation.
3. Educate and resource a congregation in the disciplines of Christian formation.
4. Organize congregations to help people discern their callings and gifts for ministry.

III. Required Texts:

The following texts are required and obtainable through online bookstores in either new or used condition. (All are available through online bookstores.) Handouts that relate to

the themes of the course, composition of the class, and interests of students, will be distributed in class. In order to complete the assignments in advance, students will need to do the reading in that area. The order in which we are addressing the books during the class sessions is listed in the class schedule. *STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO DO AS MUCH OF THE READING AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF THE CLASS! In order to be eligible for a “A” grade all the written work must be handed in by the end of the first day of class. To be eligible for a “B” grade all work must be handed in by the end of the last class session.*

Required:

Matthaei, Sondra Higgins, *Making Disciples: Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Abingdon, 2000.

Jack L. Seymour, *Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies*. Abingdon, 2015

Jack L. Seymour, *Teaching The Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living*. Abingdon, 2014.

Recommended: (Depending on student interest!)

Cascante, Fernando, Ministerio: La planificación eficaz de la educación cristiana. Abingdon, 2010.

Lytle, Julie Anne. *Faith Formation 4.0: Introducing an Ecology of Faith in a Digital Age*. Morehouse, 2013.

Pak, Su Yon, *Singing the Lord's Song: Korean-American Practices of Faith*. Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Wimberly, Anne & Evelyn Parker, *In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church*, Abingdon, 2003.

IV. Class Schedule

ADVANCE READING – BEFORE THE CLASS STARTS IT IS GOOD TO DO ALL OR MOST OF THE READING. IN ADDITION TO THE BOOKS, THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL (SHORT) READINGS RELATED TO DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS GIVEN OUT IN PREPARATION FOR A PARTICULAR AGE GROUP.

Class 1 – Introduction to the Course; Congregations as Learning Communities

Reading: Seymour, *The Way*, Part I; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*, Introductions, Chapters 1 & 2

Class 2 – Strategies for Teaching and Learning: Cultural Contexts

Reading: Seymour, *The Way*, Part II; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*, Chapters 3 & 4

Class 3 – Teaching the Bible

Reading: Seymour, *The Way*, Part III; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*, Chapters 5 & 6

Class 4 – Adult Learners & Small Group Models, I

Reading: Matthaiei, Part I; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*, Chapters 7 & 8

Class 5 -- Children & Families

Reading: Matthaiei, Part II; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*, Chapters 9 & 10

Class 6 – Youth & Young Adults

Reading: Matthaiei, Part III; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*; Chapters 11 & 12

Class 6 – Transforming the Life of Discipleship in Our Congregations

Class Presentations & Student Evaluations; Seymour, *Biblical Faith*, Chapters 13 & 14.

It is the assumption of the instructor that all students have the capacity to do well in this course and that all are welcome. Due to the collaborative nature of the course, class attendance & participation, evidence of reading and preparation, and the quality of the written assignments, are all essential. Because the class is a learning community, class attendance is required.

All students are expected to complete 2 projects/papers (10) pages each. Students should complete at least one of these projects in advance; at least one project is due by the first day of class and ***all projects are due by the last day of class***. Those who have questions about the written papers should consult the instructor. Students may choose 2 out of the following topics for their projects:

1. Design a Bible study program for a particular group based on texts related to discipleship.
2. Create a summer Vacation Bible School on themes related to discipleship.
3. Write a sermon series on discipleship for a particular season of the year.
4. Design a youth program (one evening per week) on themes related to discipleship.
5. Develop a program on the Christian Faith for adults in your wider community or those who have little formal religious background.
6. Create a program for Young Adults on themes related to discipleship.
7. Outline a church outreach program that includes discipleship training.
8. Write a paper on the theme of “discipleship and the Wesleyan tradition” drawing on the reading and your own experience.
9. Create an adult forum season on discipleship and work.
10. Develop a discipleship resource using some form of media that can be shared with your church – a power point presentation, art, music, media, other.
11. Write a paper on Christian discipleship from the perspective of your church – what are the challenges, successes, questions?
12. Develop your own idea in consultation with the instructor.

Things to keep in mind as you do your projects:

1. The more you get down in advance, the better for you.
2. Any material from other sources needs to be appropriately footnoted. COS will provide training. Just keep in mind that if you use others' material you need to say where it is from.
3. It is important that in the projects you write not just about the content, but also HOW you plan to do it. For instance, what is the age group, and what are their needs, and what educational decisions are you making along the way. I want the content and the process.
4. It is also important in your projects that you show that you have read the books! So, those who want an excellent grade (A) need to show they did all the reading; for a good grade (B) most of the reading; and a satisfactory grade (C) means you did your projects but I can't tell if you read the book or not. A poor grade (D) means you handed in some written work but did not adequately complete the assignments. A failing grade (F) means you did not do the written work, so I can't assess what you did for the class.
5. Again, if you have questions I am happy to review work in advance, and you can always revise as long as there is time,
6. Students may e-mail projects in advance of class or mail hardcopies to the following address: Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Claremont School of Theology, 1325 N College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711. See you in July! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me! I am looking forward to meet you. Peace, SKH