



**GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PASTORAL MINISTRIES  
RELE 201: FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Fall 2011  
TH 6-9

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: TBA  
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**Course Description:**

This course explores foundational aspects of contemporary religious education including its grounding in scripture, history, theology, philosophy, psychological and social science, and educational theory. Additionally, a variety of models of religious education are studied and critiqued in order to arrive at a deeper understanding of the scope and nature of the field. While the course is designed for those involved in educational and school ministries, it is also applicable to those who work in parish catechetical settings.

**Course Objectives:**

*Foundations of Religious Education* examines a full range of foundational categories through the study of classical and contemporary texts. The course introduces the student to the persons, events and scholarship that have framed the field.

**Approaches to Learning:**

This course is an interactive seminar, though lecture will be employed where appropriate. Students will engage materials through reading and reflection, class discussion and integrative writing assignments.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion and full participation in this course, the student will . . .

- Understand the nature and purpose of religious education
- Identify and critique various models, proponents and texts that have framed the field
- Comprehend the processes and practices of religious education through the study of its foundational categories
- Engage selected course materials and critically reflect on them in class discussions, presentations and written assignments
- Adopt a position of sustained critical reflection on her/his own chosen model of theory and practice in religious education

**Required Texts:**

Boys, Mary C. *Educating in Faith*. Lima, OH: Academic Renewal Press, 1989, 2001. ISBN 078809906X

Elias, John L. *A History of Christian Education: Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Perspectives*. Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Company, 2002.

Groome, Thomas H. *Christian Religious Education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1980. ISBN 0787947857

Course pack or E-reserve: Selected readings for RELE 201: Foundations of Religious Education

**Recommended Texts for Background (not required) Reading:**

See background reading for each class session.

**Recommended Websites:**

Christian Educators of the Twentieth Century: <http://www2.talbot.edu/ce20>

**Recommended Background Reading—Church Documents:**

USCCB (1972) To Teach as Jesus Did.

USCCB (1985) Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future .

Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education. (1988) The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School.

USCCB (1990) In Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education. (December 28, 1997) The Catholic School on the Verge of the Third Millennium .

Congregation for the Clergy (1997) General Directory for Catechesis.

USCCB (2005) National Directory for Catechesis.

USCCB (2008) Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.

**Course Assessments and Grading:**

Prepared participation	25%
Presentations and papers	
Noted Religious Educator (oral)	15%
Book Review (4-5 pgs.)	20%
Final Paper Outline Presentation (1-2pgs)	10%
Integrative Final Paper (10-12 pgs.)	30%

## Course Requirements:

- Attendance at every class; absences will affect participation grade
- Participation in every class discussion; should exhibit reading comprehension and reflection
- Assignments are carefully prepared and turned in on due date
- Final integrative paper reflects scholarly preparation, formatting and proofreading.

## Book Review Selections

Astley, Jeff. *The Philosophy of Christian Education*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1994.

Burgess, Harold W. *Models of Religious Education*. Nappanee, IN: Evangel Publishing House, 2001.

Harris, Maria and Gabriel Moran. *Reshaping Religious Education*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Hodgson, Peter C. *God's Wisdom: Toward a Theology of Education*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

Keely, Barbara Anne, ed. *Faith of our Foremothers: Women Changing Religious Education*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Lee, James Michael, ed. *Forging a Better Religious Education in the Third Millennium*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 2000.

Miller, Randolph Crump, ed. *Theologies of Religious Education*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1989.

Moran, Gabriel. *Religious Education as a Second Language*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1989.

O'Hare, Padraic, ed. *Foundations of Religious Education*. New York: Paulist Press, 1978.

Osmer, Richard R. *The Teaching Ministry of Congregations*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Seymour, Jack L. and Donald E. Miller. *Contemporary Approaches to Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 1982.

Seymour, Jack L. *Mapping Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 1997.

Wilkerson, Barbara, ed. *Multicultural Religious Education*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1997.

## Course Schedule (TBA)

## Readings (TBA)