The Educational Ministry of the Church Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

Date: July 20 - 24, 2009 **Office hours**: 8:15am – 8:45am;

Location: TBA 12:45p – 1:15p

Times: 9:00am – 4:30pm (break 12:00p – 1:30p) **Telephone**: (570) 807 – 0092 **Email**: mhinton@misericordia.edu

Required Texts:

1. Moran, Gabriel, Fashioning a People Today: The Educational Insights of Maria Harris

- 2. Wimberly, A. E., and Parker, E. L., <u>In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black</u> Church
- 3. White, David F., <u>Practicing Discernment with Youth: A Transformative Youth Ministry</u>
 Approach
- 4. Course Pack

General Course Description:

Our course, The Educational Ministry of the Church, focuses on the important role of education in our work as religious leaders and participants. Religious education, which can be defined in multiple ways, takes place in a variety of contexts in our religious institutions. Our goal for this class is to find educational resources and processes that authentically address and explore our religious traditions. Further, we will look at the role of education in understanding and appreciating other religious traditions. In order to meet these goals we will explore the meaning and uses of education beyond the traditional classroom walls. We will examine new paradigms for religious education and hear from those actively engaged in religious education ministries.

Course Requirements:

The most important course requirement is your *active participation* in class. We will depend on your attendance at every class meeting. Further, given the nature and content of the course and the assessment plan outlined below, we will need more than just your physical presence in class. You will need to demonstrate, at each class, that you have engaged the readings and are constantly synthesizing the information that is being studied. Much of our learning and teaching will take place OUTSIDE of the classroom walls and each student is asked and expected to participate in these learning activities as well.

Students are expected to complete all readings as assigned in the syllabus. Each student will prepare a personal response to the reading, including developing *three or four discussion questions/insights*. Questions/insights will be collected each day and will be used to deconstruct the reading and construct our understanding of religious education. Questions/insights are due prior to the lunch break each day. Selected questions will be posted following lunch. The person who developed the question/insight will be expected to lead a 10-15 discussion regarding their question.

Students are also asked to prepare *one ritual*. The ritual will be used to open or close a session of our class meeting and must be at least 10 minutes in length. The purpose of the ritual is to demonstrate the variety of ways that humans learn and are educated. The ritual may be an activity, a prayer, a traditional paper/pencil learning exercise, or whatever moves you.

We will discuss what and how we learned from each ritual in which we participate. A sign up sheet will be available on the first day of class.

Finally, students will be asked to engage in an *educational ministry project*. This final project will be completed with people in the student's immediate community/family/network/church. The goal is to design and complete an educational project. Students are asked to develop the assignment, implement the project and evaluate what did and did not work in the project. Students will present the project and their evaluation to the class on the last day of class.

Assessment:

Assignment	Number assigned	Grade Percentage
Class participation	N/A	25%
Questions/Insights	5	25%
Ritual activity	1	25%
Final Project	1	25%

As indicated and required by the Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, students will submit a self-assessment on the final afternoon of class. This self-assessment will outline what you believe you have accomplished during the course and how well you have met the course goals and expectations. *Clearly indicate on the self-assessment the letter grade you expect to receive at the conclusion of the course.* Your final grade will be determined using the assessment criteria outlined above and your self-assessment.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Quality pts.	Performance indicator
A	4.0	Superior Performance
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
В	3.0	Good Performance
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
С	2.0	Adequate Performance
C-	1.7	(Grad students must repeat)
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	Poor Performance
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	Failing

Order of Readings

The texts we read overlap in varied and important ways. Therefore, we will discuss the texts fluidly throughout our course meetings. In addition to integrating the readings throughout, each day we will formally deconstruct one of our texts. In addition to the responses/questions/insights you have prepared for each text we will consider the following questions:

- 1. What will I take away from this text/what were the positive and compelling points made?
- 2. What critiques would offer regarding this text?
- 3. What questions arose as a result of my engaging this text?
- 4. How will I use what I learned from this text?

Monday: Moran/Course Pack
Tuesday: White/Course Pack
Wednesday: Wimberley/Course Pack

Thursday: Course pack **Friday**: Course pack

Educational Ministry in the Church Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

Syllabus Addendum

In addition to the requirements outlined in the syllabus, our class will participate in several site visits throughout the week. Your active and engaged participation in these visits will constitute a portion of your grade. The dates and locations of the trips follow. Transportation to each site will be provided.

Tuesday, 1:30pm, St. Mark's Cathedral Wednesday, 10:30am, Sakya Buddhist Monastery Wednesday, 1:30pm, St. Ignatius Chapel, Seattle University Thursday, 10:30am, St. Spiridon Orthodox Cathedral Thursday, 3:00pm, Temple De Hirsch Sinai

To engage in the visits you will need to ensure that:

- 1. You are ready to leave on the van when indicated. We will leave for most locations 30 minutes prior to the times listed above. Specific departure times and locations will be announced in class.
- 2. You must dress appropriately for the visit. Please respect the sacred nature of the locations we are visiting.

Please note that at Sakya Monastery our shoulders must be covered. Short sleeved shirts are permitted; tank tops are not. Shorts or skirts must cover the knees. Upon entering the shrine we will need to remove our shoes so plan accordingly. Additional details regarding Monastery etiquette will be handed out in class.

3. Have questions or ideas with which we will engage the speaker. Let's approach each visit with a spirit of inquiry. While each speaker will provide some introductory information, we are responsible for our own learning. Please prepare at least two or three questions with which we may engage the speaker.