

# Concordia College

Bronxville, NY

November 22, December 12, 2003, and January 10, 2004 (Syl.II.2)

**I. Department and Course Number:** REL 3XX – Teaching the Faith

**II. Catalog Description**

This foundational course examines the principles and practices of Christian education at the parish level. Special attention is given to a Lutheran perspective of education, learning styles and techniques, the art of teaching, on-going catechesis, and educational leadership in the parish. This course will concentrate its activities and readings on the subject of creative Biblical education in the context of a Lutheran parish.

**III. Credit Hours:** 3

**IV. Course Objectives**

General Objectives

It is the goal of this course to:

- a. To present the Bible as the source and norm of all Christian education
- b. To understand the role of Christian education in the mission of the Church
- c. To provide an understanding of faith-based development
- d. To inspire creativity in Christian educational design and instruction
- e. To communicate the role of the teacher in the educational process
- f. To foster an attitude of life-long learning in Christian education
- g. To provide experiences in lesson planning and class instruction
- h. To assist in the discovery of a personal teaching style
- i. To encourage the development of personal goals and objectives for parish education
- j. To focus on learner-centered rather than teach-centered methods of instruction
- k. To encourage “deeper” learning of Biblical truths through applied educational techniques
- l. To provide an understanding of learning styles and age specific characteristics
- m. To explore the use of educational technology in the parish

## Behavioral Objectives

Upon Completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- ?? Utilize basic exegetical and hermeneutical principles in lesson preparation using an English Bible translation
- ?? Develop educational objectives for lesson preparation and student evaluation
- ?? Design and deliver Christ-centered lesson plans and learning experiences
- ?? Facilitate and manage group discussion and small group dynamics
- ?? Create a personal library of creative pedagogical techniques
- ?? Provide leadership in the design and administration of a congregation's Christian education program
- ?? Evaluate commercially available materials for theological and educational content

## V. Required Course Texts

Jane L. Fryar  
1992. Go and Make Disciples  
St. Louis: CPH

Martin Luther  
1991. Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation – '91 Edition  
St. Louis: CPH

Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt.  
1998. Creative Bible Teaching  
Chicago: Moody Press.

Thom and Joani Schultz.  
1993. Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church:  
And How to Fix It  
Loveland, Colorado: Group

## VI. Session One Pre-class Assignment

Prior to the first session on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, complete the following assignment:

- ?? Read Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation
- ?? Choose three doctrinal topics to serve as the basis of your class projects.
- ?? Read Chapters 1-3 of Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: And How to Fix It.