

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Springfield, Missouri
April 27-30, 2004

CEE 640 Specialized Studies in Christian Education:
National Children's Ministries Conference
(2 or 3 Credits)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Billie C. Davis, Ed.D.

Summer 2004

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores principles and methods of reaching and teaching children, as presented in the National Children's Ministries Conference. Categories of study are: nursery and early childhood, elementary children, educational foundations, theories and principles related to children's ministries, presentation methods, including use of media, puppetry, ballooning, clowning, live performance techniques, and story telling; principles of leadership and administration for professional children's pastors and volunteer workers in local church ministries such as Sunday school, children's church, Royal Rangers, and Missionettes. Students will have opportunities to interact with experienced experts in every aspect of outreach and education.

Important Note: Before attending sessions the student should carefully read the course objectives and requirements. This provides guidance and direction for interpretation and analysis of the material presented.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course, participants should

1. Have comprehensive understanding of the field of children's ministries.
2. Be able to identify (relevant to children's ministries) current trends, methods, resources, and ministry opportunities, in local churches, missionary work, and community outreach programs.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of developmental stages and principles of teaching and learning as applied to children's ministries.
4. Understand the principles and activities involved in organizing and maintaining effective children's ministry units.
5. Demonstrate ability to use some tools and techniques in presentations to children of various ages.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance Requirements: At least 13 sessions and workshops. The pre-conference sessions count as 3 sessions. Listening to the recording may be counted for up to 3 sessions. Workshop selections are to include at least one dealing with each area: Childhood development, principles of education and ministry, and specific presentation methods.
2. Take notes at each session and workshop. All notes and papers are to be in hard-copy form for grading.
3. Prepare a reaction paper for each workshop. It should include the title, theme, and main ideas presented by the leader. Add points of interest that emerged from the discussion, and your own ideas and questions. In what ways can you apply the information and ideas in your own ministry? In what ways could such a session be more helpful to you?
4. Outline a plan you might follow to organize and maintain an effective children's program within a local church, or for missions work, or for a community outreach. Include a mission statement (set of objectives) for the proposed project, and ideas for recruitment of personnel and procurement of resources.
5. Design and describe a complete plan for one event or one session in the program you have outlined. Specify age level of participants and desired outcome or objectives.

Note: A presenter at the conference who desires seminary credit may count the presentation as one session, and submit a report of the experience, explaining the subject, the methods, and comments concerning the outcomes.

GRADING

Attendance and reaction papers.....70%
Organization outline.....15%
Session plan.....15%

DUE DATE: All work must be postmarked no later than July 30, 2004.

Submit all work to: Billie Davis
c/o Continuing Education Office
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
1435 North Glenstone
Springfield, Missouri 65802

THREE-CREDIT OPTION

Requirements for one additional credit hour:

1. Attend the session *Teaching for Maturity and Perpetuation*.
2. Read the book *The Dynamic Classroom*, available at the session.
3. Write a paper, (at least 10 pages in format according to Turabian, 6th edition.), addressing the importance of children's ministries, and how the church can fulfill its responsibilities. The paper should include mention of theological foundations, principles drawn from studies of childhood development and learning , and some conclusions relevant to attitudes and skills required of children's ministers.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Billie Davis, February 2004.