

Neal DeRoo Summer 2024 Reading List

ICS Calendar Title: What's Christian About Christian Education?: Reformational Philosophy

ICS Course Code: ICS 1107AC / 2107AC S24

Instructor: Neal DeRoo

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1. Course Description

This course will offer you an opportunity to reflect about what it means to teach or educate “Christianly.” It will situate a Reformational understanding of Christian education within two distinct types of “context”: first, the “spirits of the age” that are at work influencing our shared modern, Canadian society; and second, the local context of the school you work at. The ‘spiritual’ context will help us see Christian education as an alternative, not simply to “secular” education, but to other patterns of spiritual formation, like consumerist education or workaholic education. The ‘local’ context will then allow us to discuss how Christian education can be ‘put to work’ in your day-to-day activities as a teacher or administrator. The goal is to give you time, space, and resources to develop a clearer understanding of how faith impacts education in general, and how your faith shapes what you do as an educator more specifically.

2. Course Requirements

Seminar participants are expected to:

- Participate in six 3-hour Zoom sessions throughout the term;
- Read ~300 pages of required readings;
- Watch (almost) weekly lecture videos/prompts;
- Participate in 10 forum discussions based on the required readings and prompts;
- Write regular journal entries in response to prompts;
- Read ~950 pages in addition to the reading required to inform your project, to a total of 1,250 pages;
- Complete a project in which you will answer the question “What is ‘Christian’ about Christian education”?;
- Present their project to an authentic audience contributing to the communal learning of others; and
- Discuss concrete applications of the material with the Professor

3. Description and Weighting of Elements to be Evaluated

The approximate weight assigned each component for the course mark is as follows:

· Assigned Reading, Lectures and Fora participation	25%
· Participation in Zoom Sessions	15%
· Journal	20%
· Final Project	20%
· Presentation of Project	10%
· Portfolio Presentation	10%

4. Required Readings

Kyle Idleman, *Gods at War* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013); 9-27. (18 pages out of 240)
(Instructor to provide online access to this in Google Classroom)

Neal DeRoo, *In All Things: A Vision of Christian Living* (unpublished).
(Instructor to provide online access to this in Google Classroom)

James K.A. Smith, “Beyond Perspectives” in *Desiring The Kingdom* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009), 17-35 (18 pages out of 238)
(Instructor to provide online access to this in Google Classroom)
>>> University of Toronto Library system offers both print and online access to this item;
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106352676806196

Richard Mouw, *Abraham Kuyper: a Short and Personal Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011), 16-27; 40-49 (20 pages out of 136)
(Instructor to provide online access to this in Google Classroom)

A Note on Readings

Graduate courses at ICS normally require around 1250 pages of reading. This course is no exception. About 300 pages of this will be required readings done in preparation for weekly forum discussions and the six Zoom sessions. The rest will be up to students to read in preparation for their final projects.

5. Office Hours, Weekly Reflections, Presentation, Final Project

Office Hours

I am available for Zoom meeting by appointment. Please remember that I live in the Mountain Time Zone, so meetings prior to 10am Eastern time are not likely to work well for me.

Weekly Reflections

Every week I will provide reading guides for the assigned readings. The guides will include, at minimum, some questions to guide your study and help you prepare to discuss the readings in class. Each time you will hand in a reflection of approximately 150-200 words that addresses one or more of the questions handed out. Your reflection will be due weekly and be turned in via the Google Class.

Final Project

Description: Students will be expected to turn in a final project no later than September 19, 2024. This final project will apply the knowledge students learn in this class to answer the titular question “What is ‘Christian’ about Christian Education” and place their answer in relation to Reformational philosophical concepts and ideas.

Choose one of the following options as your project:

- **Create your own project.** Consider what would be a meaningful way for you to answer the question “What is ‘Christian’ about Christian Education?” Written approval of the project proposal is required from the instructor prior to the student beginning work on the project.
- **Write a paper** of 3000-5000 words that answers the titular question and relates your answer to Reformational philosophical concepts and ideas which we will learn throughout the course.

Evaluation: The evaluation of the final project will be based on the nature of that final project. A rubric to guide the evaluation will be developed in consultation between students and the instructor.

Presentation

Students are expected to create a shorter version of their final project (e.g., without all the references to Reformational philosophy) and share it with others in their professional and/or employment settings. This could include publishing it in a professional journal, your local school newsletter, ICS’ *Perspectives* magazine, or presenting it at a professional conference or professional development session.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Student Services as soon as possible.

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