

COURSE SYLLABUS

Christian Philosophy of Education

Course Lecturer: Ellen Lowrie Black, EdD

Course Description

In this course, you will learn what it means to have a Christian philosophy of education and why having one is a necessary part of being a Christian educator. You will explore what a Christian philosophy of education looks like in practice and discover practical ways to implement a Christian philosophy of education in your school and classroom.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain the necessity of having a Christian philosophy of education.
- Recognize the importance of your calling as a Christian educator.
- Explain the impact a biblical worldview should have on your role as a Christian educator and the centrality of Scripture in your role.
- Understand why both parents and teachers are important, explain the roles they play in the lives of their students, and identify ways you can support parents.
- Explain why nurturing your students is important and identify specific ways you can nurture them.
- Identify practical ways to implement discipleship and mentoring.
- Understand why implementing a biblical worldview into your curriculum is important and explain ways you can do so.
- Be prepared to respond to attacks on Christian philosophy and discuss ways you can prepare your students to face such attacks.

Course Lecturer



Ellen Lowrie Black, EdD

Education:

- Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Post-doctoral work
- Temple University in Philadelphia, EdD
- Texas A&M, MEd
- Eastern Mennonite University, BS

Teaching Career:

- Nearly four decades of varied experience in education as a classroom teacher, professor, K-12 and university board member, university dean and vice-president
- Adjunct Professor and Dissertation Chair, Liberty University
- Numerous partnerships with K-12 schools to apply research and best practice
- Presenter at Oxford University
- Lectured and trained educators on four continents
- Board, Network of International Christian Schools/OASIS

Other Career Highlights:

- As a graduate of the Delaware County Christian School, Dr. Black experienced firsthand the love and commitment of Christian school educators. Her children are Christian school and university graduates and her six grandchildren currently attend faith-based schools.

Course Texts

Choose *one* of the following texts to read as you complete the course. You are required to read your chosen text in its entirety.

MacCullough, Martha E. *By Design: Developing a Philosophy of Education Informed by a Christian Worldview*. 2nd ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Purposeful Design Publications, 2013.

Knight, George R. *Philosophy & Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective*. 4th ed. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2006.

Graham, Donovan. *Teaching Redemptively*. 2nd ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Purposeful Design Publications, 2009.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.

- **Additional Resources**

Lessons may be accompanied by personal reflection questions, discussion forums, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 15 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Choosing one of the course textbooks and reading it in its entirety.
3. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
4. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.
5. Completing the Christian Philosophy of Education (CPoE) Paper.

When you have finished all twelve lessons, you will compose a Christian Philosophy of Education (CPoE) Paper using the following guidelines:

Based on the lessons and readings you have completed, write an electronic paper, four to six pages in length, of your personal philosophy of education as informed by a biblical worldview. The paper should address at least six educational philosophy components and how they are manifested in a classroom setting. Each of the following six components should be addressed:

- Christian Core Beliefs and the Purpose of Education (It should include a discussion of what we know about God and what we believe is true, real, and of value; the themes of creation, the Fall, redemption, and the Christian's role in restoration should be included.)
- Nature of the learner
- Nature and role of the teacher
- Nature of the learning process
- A Christian's view of subject matter and curriculum
- Conclusion that includes the writer's view of the goal of Christian education and resulting educational practice.

Once you complete this assignment, please keep it on hand. You will need it upon completion of your next course, Biblical Integration.

6. Completing the Note Reflection Assignment.

Throughout the course lessons, Dr. Black will ask you to take notes on what God is speaking to you about. At the end of the course, you will be asked to reflect on these notes before completing the course.

Next Steps

No certificate will be awarded for completing this course. Once you complete this course and all its requirements, you will move on to the second course in your Christian Philosophy of Education requirement: Biblical Integration.