

First Draft– Tentative Syllabus  
Spring Semester 2017  
ED- 2001

## FAITH FORMATION & INNOVATION: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHANGING TIMES

Residential Hybrid Course

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Office Hours: By appointment

Minimum 6 -- Limit: 15

Location: Fireside Room and Adobe Connect Portal

Time: 9:40-12:30am Monday, 1/30-5/12 2017

### I. Description:

Sunday school is dead, long live Sunday school? How are progressive congregations teaching and how are learning ministries adapting to new technology, counter oppressive pedagogies, contemporary family life issues and changes in volunteer culture? Participants in this three credit course will visit and engage with congregational programs and develop skills for leading faith communities into the future. Each student will practice teaching and learn self-reflective techniques in an integrative project, curriculum design or immersion experience.

### II. Course Aims and Learning Objectives:

#### Aims

This course will engage learners in the art and craft of leadership for innovative educational ministries. With a foundation in developmental theories for all age faith formation, participants will be called upon to propose, engage and reflect on the office of “educator” in the ministerial portfolio. Students will design learning experiences, network with religious professionals and congregational leadership and self-regulate

#### Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will develop or refine their skill set in the following areas:

- Modeling spiritual depth in personal practice.
- Articulating philosophies and theories of teaching and learning.
- Understanding the role as a minister within a mission-based institution.
- Demonstrating knowledge of current initiatives and issues within the faith movement.
- Experimenting with emerging media technology.
- Articulating a vision for the future, assessing opportunities and challenges for Unitarian Universalism in a changing society.
- Exploring new generational and multicultural expressions of Unitarian Universalism.

### III. Format and Procedures:

Sessions will typically weave three strands of experience:

1. Reflecting on experiences as teachers/learners
2. Discussion of theological and historical themes in educational ministry;
3. Collaborative experiments in congregational and community settings

### IV. Assumptions

- online access to all course materials and participation platforms
- willingness to partner with congregation/community setting for teaching practicum
- self-directed graduate level executive functioning skills

### V. Course Requirements:

1. Daily class attendance and participation in exercises, conversation and assignments

2. Course readings:

(a) Required texts:

**In the Middle of a Journey: Readings in Unitarian Universalist Faith Development**

By Richard S. Gilbert (on demand)

ISBN: 978-1-47598-541-2

via - iUniverse, print on demand

E-Book 3.99, Perfect bound \$26.95

**Let's Kill Sunday School (Before it kills the church)**

By Dr. Rich Melheim and Friends

(no ISBN) \$14.99 available online: [https://store.faithink.com/](https://store.faithink.com/index.aspPageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=4076)

[index.aspPageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=4076](https://store.faithink.com/index.aspPageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=4076)

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian**

By Sherman Alexie

ISBN ISBN-10: 9780316013697 ISBN-13: 978-0316013697

Little Brown, 2009 \$ 15.99

**Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope**

By Bell Hooks

ISBN-13: 978-0415968188

ISBN-10: 0415968186

Routledge, 2003 \$36.95

(b) Suggested texts: TBA

(c) Required web resources: TBA

### 3. Assignments

- (a) Teach a chapter from one of the required readings (assigned in week 2)
- (b) Keep a Teaching Journal
- (c) design and lead three sessions of a learning program in a community context
- (d) 8-10 page biographic dialogue with a teacher from your tradition considering issues of identity formation, counter oppressive dynamics across historical perspective and a concise theology of teaching/learning based on journal entries.

### V. Grading Procedures

It is expected that students will be following the SKSM student handbook guidelines and elect the P/F option. Narrative forms will be completed following the course.

### VIII. Tentative Course Schedule

This course is designed as a community immersion and attendance at all sessions is required for completion of the 3 credit experience.

#### Unit 1 - Unlearning, Questioning and Stirring the Seeds

January 30 - Theologies of Learning (memory and praxis in class exercises)

February 6 (until 11 am) Learning Ecologies (campus field trip)

February 13 Learning Styles and Eschatology (immersion experience)

February 20 (holiday)

#### Unit 2 - Praxis, Experimentation, Grief and Gratitude

March 6 (until 11 am) Engaging the Senses (multiple intelligence and developmental theories)

March 13 The Power of Stories (narrative assessment and community as theological laboratory)

March 20 Creative Love in Congregations, and Beyond (uua panel presentation)

March 27 (reading week)

April 3 (until 11 am) Seeing and Believing (liberal religion and social constructs)

April 10 Boundaries, Borders and Accountability (assessment tools and theologies of experimentation)

#### Unit 3 - Reflection, Authority and Claiming

April 17 - On Failure (presentation of student projects)

April 24 - On Autonomy (presentation of student projects)

May 1 - (until 11am)

May 9 - Celebrations (presentation of student projects)