REL 465i – FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Course Outline

Location
Online

Instructor
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Course Description
Religion 465 is the study and critique of the foundations of content; the current theories; and the practical principles for Catholic Religious Educators and Religious Education for the Catholic School.

Course Assignments and Evaluation
Foundations of Content:

1. Read Chapter Two: A Brief Overview of Recent Religious Education in Catholic Schools and in a two to three page reflection, discuss what you think was the most important topic at the Second Vatican Council and how it relates to the Religious Education classroom today. (10 Percent)

2. Read Chapter Three: Teaching Religious Education: Historical Perspectives and in a two to three page reflection, discuss the implications that the history of Christianity has for your work as a religious educator. (10 Percent)

3. Read Chapter Four: Content Knowledge and Teacher Training in Religious Education and in two to three page reflection, respond to the following question: Should employment expectations of religious education teachers differ to those of other classroom teachers in a Catholic School? If so in what way? If not why not? (10 Percent)

4. Read Chapter Nine: The Professional Responsibilities of Religious Education Teachers in Catholic Schools and in a one page reflection, share your impressions of the reading. (5 Percent)
Current Theories:

5. Read Chapter One: *Teaching Religious Education in Contemporary Culture* and in a one to two page reflection, discuss the key issues you think the Catholic Church must face in the twenty-first century. *(5 Percent)*

6. Read Chapter Ten: *Permeation and Religious Education* and in a one page reflection, share your impressions of the reading. *(5 Percent)*

Practical Principles:

7. Read Chapter Five: *The Religious Education Curriculum: Some North American Perspectives* and in a one to two page reflection, discuss the contribution that the religious education curriculum might make to the formation of a student in faith and in the life of the Church. *(5 Percent)*

8. Read Chapter Six: *Outcomes and Lesson Plans* and create a lesson plan for use in a Religious Education classroom that connects one or more of the themes presented in the readings. *(15 Percent)*

9. Read Chapter Seven: *Planning a Unit of Work in Religious Education* and plan and develop a Religious Education Unit for use in your own Religion classroom. Please include an introduction and overview of the Unit, two to three detailed lesson plans, as well as timing, resources, and assessment opportunities. *(20 Percent)*

10. Read Chapter Eight: *Assessment and Evaluation in Religious Education* and in a one to two page critique, assess and evaluate your Unit of Work using the readings from the chapter as your guide. *(10 Percent)*

11. Read Chapter Eleven: *Teaching Hard Topics in Religious Education* and in a one page reflection, share your impressions of the reading. *(5 Percent)*

Discussions

Participation in weekly discussions is mandatory. No less than three posts are required: one post specifically in regards to the question and two others in regards to posts from fellow students.
ELearning
ELearning is much different from learning in a classroom with a teacher presenting the lessons and pacing the students through the course. With independent self-paced learning, you are in charge of when, where and how you work on the lessons. Your success in this course will depend upon your ability to: set goals; organize your time; read and understand written directions and materials; stay on task; persevere through difficulties; and seek help as needed.

Independent self-paced learning is ideal for mature, motivated students. It is important that you ask for help when you have trouble with assignments or concepts. You are not alone. You are part of a ‘virtual classroom’ and you are encouraged to seek the assistance of your instructor and fellow classmates just as in any other classroom.

One important way to maintain communication with your instructor is through Email and the Pager in the D2L Platform. Students must maintain regular contact with the instructor, emailing at least once a week. This regular contact is extremely important.

Textbook

Recommended Reading
General Directory for Catechesis.
Catechism of the Catholic Church.
The Holy Bible.
CCCB Religion Teacher Manual and Student Textbook.