

Church Evangelism EVAN5250
Thursday Hybrid Course Fall 2017
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Dr. Gary Dennis
Adjunct Professor of Evangelism
5 - 8:50 PM
8/25, 9/22, 10/13, 11/10

All Work is to be submitted via Blackboard unless otherwise stated.

Email: gdennis7@gmail.com

Cell phone: 985-320-3325 (You may text or call me. Please identify yourself and the class you are taking. If you call and I do not answer, leave me a message & I will return your call as soon as possible)

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Pastoral Ministries Division Mission Statement

To prepare leaders by the development of the skills necessary for performing pastoral ministries, primarily within the context of the Church, and to assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the gifts and skills of Division members.

Core Value Focus

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following areas:

1. Spiritual Vitality - Evangelism is a part of the spiritual vitality for the individual Christian and for the church body as a whole.
2. Mission Focus - Carrying out the Great Commission is consistent with the value of mission focus.
3. Characteristic Excellence and Servant Leadership - Each evangelistic effort needs to be carried out with excellence and in a manner consistent with the servant leadership model of Jesus. Characteristic Excellence is the core value focus for the current academic year.
4. Doctrinal Integrity – Evangelistic ministry of the local church must be grounded on solid biblical doctrine.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

- Disciple Making - The course will focus on the disciple making competency, particularly the pre-conversion and early conversion period of disciple making.

- Servant Leadership - All evangelistic efforts are to be carried out within the framework of servant leadership.
- Worship Leadership - Worship leadership will be addressed as to how to diminish distractions to effective evangelism in the context of worship services.
- Spiritual and Character Formation - The course will address the spiritual and character formation of the students and of those which they serve.
- Biblical Exposition - The methods used to carry out the evangelistic calling of the church need to be consistent with biblical teachings and will involve biblical exposition.

Course Description

The purpose of this class is to explore the ministry of evangelism through a local church and its ministries. In addition to a summary of various approaches to evangelism in local churches, the biblical, theological, and historical aspects of evangelism will be highlighted as well in order to provide a holistic view.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to stimulate evangelistic church growth and health, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of the following concepts to the process of stimulating evangelistic church growth through mobilizing the church for evangelism:
 - The biblical mandate for church evangelism.
 - The biblical components of the Gospel, including various understandings of what it means to be “saved,” to “make a decision,” or to “be drawn to Christ,” and how people may objectively know of and develop confidence in their salvation.
 - The ministry of evangelism; approaches to evangelism; and the biblical, theological, and historical aspects of evangelism.
2. Value the following concepts:
 - Sharing the Gospel with non-Christians.
 - A holistic view of evangelism.
3. Be able, with the help of various evangelistic tools, to share the Gospel with non-Christians and train other Christians in the use of the tools.
4. Be able to develop an informed, multi-faceted evangelistic strategy for a local church.

Course Methodology

The course will feature a variety of teaching/learning methods including: lecture, multi-media presentation, dialogue, required reading, guest experts, examination, small and large group discussions, testimonies, reports, and independent study.

Textbooks

Evangelism Handbook -- Alvin Reid

Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest – Edited by Thomas Johnston

Course Requirements

1. Each student will complete an **interview** with a person the student believes is not a Christian or has been out of church for at least 10 years. After the interview the student is to write a thoughtful reflection of the experience. The student may want to include selected significant quotes, a summary paragraph of the interview, what you learned about the person, what you discovered about yourself or what you need to learn. Please turn in the raw data/responses to the questions.

Interview Guide

The student should ask for the time from the person in order to interview them for a class assignment with the objective being to simply learn how people see religious things. The purpose is not to convert the person or even share the Gospel message. The purpose is to learn what people are thinking about religious matters. The **interview must be conducted in person** (not over the telephone or online).

Sample request: *"I am doing a research project and need your help. My assignment is to learn how people see religious things. Will you take a few minutes to help me?"*

Let them know that their name will not be included in any manner. You can interview people you know, business people, people in malls or other public places. **Please do not interview family members for this assignment.**

Take the approach of a student researching, not a minister evangelizing. Please do not try to convince them or debate with them; simply record their answers on a notepad. If they ask your opinion, gracefully decline (because you do not want to influence their answer). *After* the interview, if the person asks you to tell them your beliefs, listen to the Holy Spirit and either set another time to get together for that purpose or go ahead and share. **THE POINT:** if they feel you are conning them into a witnessing opportunity, you will not get their true feelings and thoughts.

The following represents questions the student should ask...

1. To you, what is God like? Describe God.
If they don't believe in God, ask ...
What do you value most in life?
2. How would you describe your religious background and church involvement if any?
3. What message do you think the church is trying to communicate?
4. What do you think it takes to be made right with God?
5. Describe what the name Jesus Christ means to you.
6. Why do you think people do not go to church?

The assignment will be due week 3 (**September 11**). The student should be prepared to discuss his or her findings with the class.

2. **Two personal evangelism reports** of witnessing to a non-believer conducted during the course of the summer internet course. The students are to use the guide prepared by the professor. The two reports are **due week 8 (October 16)**.

3. **Two exams**: First Sectional will be on **week 7 (October 6)**, Final Exam will be on **week 14 (December 5)**.

4. Each student will read the **two required books**. The student will be asked to read assigned chapters according to the provided schedule. Reading progress will be evaluated via summaries and personal reflections.

5. Each student will develop **a comprehensive evangelism strategy** for a local church chosen by the student. The student will provide a description of the church's community using demographic information, Chamber of Commerce information, or other pertinent information. The student will develop a historical understanding of the church. The student will study the church's evangelistic obstacles, strengths/weaknesses, and programs. The student will delineate an evangelistic strategy for the church for a period of at least twelve months. A typed, eight-page (minimum) double spaced paper will be prepared by the student. In addition, the student will provide a twelve month calendar with events that execute the evangelistic strategy developed by the student. Aforementioned assignment is **due on or before 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time) December 4**.

Course Evaluation

1. Personal Evangelism Reports (10%)
2. First Sectional Exam (15%)
3. Second Sectional Exam (15%)
4. Interview with the Unchurched (10%)
5. Participation in Class (15%)
6. Reading Progress for Two Required Books (15%)
7. Comprehensive Evangelism Strategy with a Calendar (20%)

Grading Considerations

- 1) Make up exams will be allowed only in the event of an emergency. Notification of such an emergency should be made in advance to the exam day by emailing the professor. Make-up exams will be more difficult than the regularly scheduled exams.
- 2) **All assignments are due not later than 11:59 PM on the due date unless otherwise stated.** Assignments will be **penalized four points for each day it is late**, weekends and holidays included.
- 3) All work submitted for this class is to be typed. **Grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, Turabian, etc. will be evaluated.** Typographical errors and poor proofreading will be penalized.

4) **All work must be completed by December 8, 11:59 PM Central Standard Time with no work accepted after it.**

5) The student must submit all assigned work to receive a passing grade for the class.

6) Students **who plan to graduate in December must inform the instructor via email no later than November 1 of their intention.**

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Class Schedule

Unit 1 August 22-28

Syllabus and Introductions
What is Church Evangelism?
EH – Chapter 1, 2

Unit 2 August 29 - September 4

Why Engage in Church Evangelism?
EH – Chapter 3, 4
MGCH – Chapter 1, 4

Unit 3 September 5 - 11

Theology of Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 9
Interview with Lost Person Due

Unit 4 September 12 - 18

History of Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8
Class Meets 9/13 5 pm

Unit 5 September 19 - 25

Spirituality for Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
MGCH – Chapter 12

Unit 6 September 26 - October 2

Strategy for Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 15, 18
MGCH – Chapter 2, Chapter 5

Unit 7 October 3 - 9

Mid-Term Exam 10/6

Unit 8 October 10 - 16

Personal Evangelism and Apologetics in Church Evangelism

EH – Chapter 16, Chapter 17

MGCH – Chapter 3, Chapter 13, Chapter 14

Class meets 10/13 5 pm

Personal Evangelism reports due

(October 17 - 23 Fall Break)

Unit 9 October 24 - 30

Worship Evangelism

EH – Chapter 19

MGCH – Chapter 9

Unit 10 October 31 - November 6

Mass Evangelism

EH – Chapter 20

MGCH – Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Chapter 10

Unit 11 November 7 - 13

Multigenerational Church Evangelism

EH – Chapter 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

MGCH – Chapter 17, Chapter 18

Class Meets 11/10 5 pm

Unit 12 November 14 - 20

Servanthood/Ministry and Sports Evangelism

EH – Chapter 26

MGCH – Chapter 11, Chapter 15, Chapter 16

Unit 13 November 28 - December 4

Assimilation: Closing the Back Door

MGCH – Chapter 6, Chapter 19

Strategy Paper Due by Dec. 4 at 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time

Unit 14 December 5 - 8

Final Exam December 5

Personal Evangelism Report (1-2 pages)

Situation

Date, time, location of the witnessing encounter:

Name of the person and his or her background:

Interaction

How did you start your conversation?

How did you transition to the gospel message?

What evangelistic tool did you use in presenting the gospel?

How did you call for a response?

How did the person respond to the gospel?

If the person did not respond positively, what do you think is preventing him or her from trusting Christ alone as Savior and Lord?

What plans have you made for discipling this person?

Evaluation

What were the hindrances to the presentation?

What did you do well?

What would you do differently

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