



EVAN6351-01 Contemporary Trends in Growing an Evangelistic Church Internet Class

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pastoral Ministry Division
Fall Semester 2016**

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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom department.

The core value focus for this academic year is characteristic excellence.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. **Biblical exposition:** The student will discover and learn from passages of Scripture that will address the subject of evangelism particularly in a contemporary context.
2. **Theological perspective:** The course will provide both a theological and historical understanding of evangelism that will facilitate the application of evangelism in a contemporary setting.
3. **Disciple making:** In this course, students are encouraged to understand evangelism as not only the responsibility of the church but also the responsibility and privilege of each individual person.
4. **Interpersonal skills:** This course emphasizes the importance of interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of successful evangelism in a contemporary setting.
5. **Servant leadership:** The course is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship, importance, and practice of servant leadership to contemporary evangelism.
6. **Worship leadership:** The relationship between worship and effective evangelism in contemporary settings is noted in the course.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to identify the significant trends and changes affecting evangelism and church growth based on the historical backdrop and principles of the church growth movement. The course introduces students to the current literature and gives attention to the applications and implications of these trends for local church evangelism.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to assemble a list of the top emerging issues in evangelism and church growth and defend their selection.
2. Students will be able to thoroughly discuss the issues surrounding several emerging issues.
3. Students will develop a broad base understanding of some of the emerging issues in evangelism and church growth.
4. Students will be able to prepare an extensive bibliography of books and articles on the emerging issues studied in the seminar.
5. Students will become familiar with topics which are foundational in church growth from which to build expertise in emerging issues.

Course Teaching Methodology

In coordination with Blackboard lectures, reading assignments, and threaded discussions, students will enhance their knowledge and skills related to contemporary evangelism in the ways:

1. Lectures. The lectures of the professor will be a resource material for the course. The lectures will be posted on Blackboard. Students are expected to download the lectures, study the contents, interact with the professor, and use them in class assignments.
2. Personal interaction. Students are expected to participate in online discussion using the Discussion Board section in Blackboard based on questions raised in the assigned reading and in the lectures.
3. Individual work. Each student will be expected to read, conduct research, and engage in critical thinking and clear writing.

Textbooks

1. Pate, Stephen and Gene Wilkes. *Evangelism Where You Live: Engaging Your Community*. Chalice Press, 2008.
2. Von Buseck, Craig. *Netcasters: Using the Internet to Make Fishers of Men*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2010.
3. Andrews, Edward D. *Conversational Evangelism*. Cambridge, OH: Christian Publishing House, 2015.

Course Requirements:

1. READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- A 4-6 page (typed; double-spaced) critique that contains at least the following.
- a. What was the author's primary purpose in writing this book?
 - b. A summary of the book.
 - c. What did you like about the book?
 - d. With what did you disagree or have questions?
 - e. Due: **Pate: Sept. 19, Von Buseck: Oct 17, and Andrews: Nov.14.**

2. INTERVIEW PAPER:

- a.. Subject: A paper dealing with selected contemporary trends in evangelism.
- b. Paper should report on conversations with pastors, professors, directors of missions, state and SBC leaders concerning their identification of current trends in evangelism and the impact these trends will have on the practice of evangelism in our churches and denomination. The professor can provide a list of the top evangelistic churches located near where a student lives for possible interviews.
- c. Length: Approximately 10-12 pages.
- d. Due: **Nov. 28, 2016**

3. TOPICAL PAPER

Prepare a topical paper on an emerging issue in evangelism or church growth.

- a. Report on emerging issues in the field of evangelism or church growth
- b. Topic selected from professor's list or other with the professor's approval
- c. Length: 15-20 pages
- d. Due date: **Dec. 14, 2016**
- e. Possible topics:

- Evangelism in a PostModern World
- House Church Network
- Family to Family Evangelism & Discipleship (equipping heads of households)
- Electronic Church & Evangelism
- Trends in Evangelizing Children
- Trends in Evangelizing Youth
- Trends in Evangelizing Senior Adults
- The Dynamics of the Multi-congregational Church
- Personal Evangelism w/ those with little religious background
- Distinguishing Christian beliefs, practices and doctrine
- Evangelizing the Dechurched (formerly churched)
- Evangelizing the Uninterested and Hard to Reach
- Uniqueness and Exclusivity of Christ in a Pluralistic America
- Use of Cell and Small Groups in Evangelism
- The Christian Message Among Conflicting Messages
- Communication Barriers
- Assimilation and Follow-up After Conversion
- The Changing Role of Mass and Direct Marketing
- Characteristics of Churches which Reach Lost People through Worship
- Role of Church Planting in Reaching Unreached People Groups
- Turning the Spiritually Interested into World-Changing Disciples
- Changing Role of Revival Meetings
- The Marriage of Ministry and Evangelism
- Church Models for Evangelism and Disciple-Making
- Evangelism in the Urban Setting
- Evangelism in Rural Areas
- Evangelism in Small Towns
- Evangelism in the Suburbs
- Evangelism at Colleges and Universities
- Evangelism among Different Lifestyle Groups
- Evangelism in Small Towns
- Evangelism in Medium Size Churches
- Evangelism in Large Churches
- Evangelism in Mega-churches
- Evangelism among the Poor
- Evangelizing the Wealthy
- Evangelism Involving Specific Racial or Ethnic Groups
- Essentials of the Christian Message to Pre-Christian America
- Pros and Cons of Worship Evangelism
- Pros and Cons of Mega Church Over Time
- Assimilation Difference in Relational and Non-Relational Evangelism

The Death of Churches
 Pros and Cons of the Individualizing of the Discipleship
 Family Friendly Churches
 Natural Church Development as a Tool for Church Growth and Health
 Challenges to Churches in an Ever-Changing Culture
 Why Live the Christian Life - Why Become a Christian
 Turning Natural Conversations to Spiritual Conversations
 The New Questions of the Pre-Christians
 The Use of Additional Services to Reach Additional People Groups
 Pastoral Learning in an Increasingly Complex World
 Planting Seeds in a Unseeded Fields
 **The Unknown God: The God People are Looking For
 Identifying Evangelism and Growth Problems
 Identifying the Major Approaches to Evangelism in the New Century
 The Changing Roles of Members to Minister: the New Reformation
 The Use of the Internet and Other Technologies in Evangelism
 Power Evangelism Revisited: The Demonstration of the Supernatural
 Demonic Strongholds and Deliverance in Evangelism and Discipleship
 Gen X Church Models
 Church Without Walls
 Skills Needed to Share the Gospel in a Changing World
 The Changing Gospel for a Unchanging World
 Keys to Leading a Church to Close
 Music and Worship as an Expression of One's Faith
 Keys to Making Membership Meaningful
 Tapping into Seniors for Ministry
 Early reviews on the NET as an Evangelistic Tool
 Reviews on FAITH as an Evangelistic Tool
 The Pastor's Personal Participation in Highly Evangelistic Churches
 Hindrances to Church Evangelism: Can Most Churches Have Ongoing
 Evangelism and Assimilation?
 Major Competitors to the Christian Message and Task
 Training Materials and Methods
 Possible Futures for the Church of America
 Confronting Nominal Christianity
 Jesus as Person Worthy of Following
 The Role of Pastoral and Apostolic Gifts in the 21st Century

4. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. **Participation counts for 25% of your final grade.** Comments related to lectures and materials posted on Blackboard, presentation of a student's cases, discussion of other student's cases, and response to the assigned readings are essential to class performance. Each student is expected to participate by posting at least once to each of the professor's posts and to one of the posts made by another student in the threaded discussions on Blackboard. **This means that a student should make at least two posts per week. The first post must be made by Thursday.**

Evaluation of Grade

The requirements for the course and the contribution of each towards the final grade are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Book Reports	25%
Discussion Board	25%
Interview Paper	25%
Topical Paper	25%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

VERY IMPORTANT: If a student communicates with the professor by email, note clearly in the subject line the name of the course. Due to junk email, if the purpose of the email is not clear, the message may be deleted without ever being read.

Blackboard Enrollment: Students will be enrolled in Blackboard by ITC.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

1. **Lectures and course material will be posted each week on Monday.**
2. **Book Report due dates:**
Aldrich, Joe. *Lifestyle Evangelism: Learning to Open Your Life to Those Around You*. **Due: Sept. 19**
Von Buseck, Craig. *Netcasters: Using the Internet to Make Fishers of Men*. **Due: Oct. 17**
Geisler, David and Norman Geisler. *Conversational Evangelism* **Due: Nov. 14**
3. **Interview Paper, Due: Nov. 28**
4. **Topical Paper, Due: Dec. 12**

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