



EVAN5250-01 CHURCH EVANGELISM

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries

Fall 2017 * Tues. & Thurs. * 8:30-9:20 AM

Dr. Preston L. Nix

Professor of Evangelism and Evangelistic Preaching
Occupying the Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism
Director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health
Chairman of the Pastoral Ministries Division

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer McMillen
Office: The Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health
E-mail: pnix@nobts.edu; leavellcenter@nobts.edu
Phone: 504-816-8820

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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The Core Value Focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership. Servant Leadership is described as “We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us” (2017-18 *Online Graduate Catalog*, p. 5). The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values in the following areas:

Spiritual Vitality - Evangelism is a part of the spiritual vitality for the individual Christian and for the church body as a whole.

Mission Focus - Carrying out of the Great Commission is consistent with the value of mission focus.

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.

Doctrinal Integrity – The evangelistic ministry of the local church must be grounded on solid biblical doctrine.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

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 whom 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 “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 in 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.

Textbooks

Reid, Alvin. *Evangelism Handbook*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2009.

Johnston, Thomas P., ed. *Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest: Voices and Views from the Southern Baptist Professors of Evangelism Fellowship*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2011.

Course Teaching 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.

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 on each 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 him/her 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 the person know that his/her 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 the person or debate with him/her; simply record his/her answers on a notepad. If he/she asks your opinion, gracefully decline (because you do not want to influence his/her answer). *After* the interview, if the person asks you to tell him/her 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 he/she feels you are conning him/her into a witnessing opportunity, you will not get his/her 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 **September 14**. The student should be prepared to discuss his or her findings with a class on the due date.

2. **Two personal evangelism reports** of witnessing to a non-believer conducted during the course of the semester. The students are to use the guide prepared by the professor. The two reports are **due November 2**.

3. **Two exams**: Midterm Exam will be on **October 12**. Final Exam will be on **December 12**.

4. Each student will read the **two required textbooks**. The student will be asked to read assigned chapters according to the provided schedule. Reading progress will be evaluated via quizzes, discussion groups, and personal reflections. **The student will work with a group to facilitate a presentation and discussion of the selected chapters/topics in the books**. The group assignments will be made during the second week of class.

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. More details will be given about the assignment in class. The assignment will be graded according to the attached grading rubric. The assignment is **due November 16.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1. Personal Evangelism Reports (10%)
2. Midterm Exam (20%)
3. Final Exam (20%)
4. Interview with the Lost/Unchurched (10%)
5. Presentation in Class (10%)
6. Reading Progress for Two Required Textbooks (10%)
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 e-mailing the professor. Make-up exams will be more difficult than the regularly scheduled exams.
- 2) Assignments will be penalized four points for each day they are late, weekends and holidays included.
- 3) All work submitted for this class is to be typed. Grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. will be evaluated. Typographical errors and poor proofreading will be penalized.
- 4) All work must be completed on the day of the Final Exam with no work accepted after that time.
- 5) The student should submit all assigned work to receive a passing grade for the class.

Class Schedule

August 22 & 24 – Syllabus and Introductions

August 29 & 31 – What is Church Evangelism?
EH – Chapter 1, 2

September 5 & 7 – Why Engage in Church Evangelism?
EH – Chapter 3, 4
MGCH – Chapter 1, 4

September 12 & 14 – Theology for Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 9

Interview with Lost/Unchurched Due

September 19 & 21 – History of Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8

September 26 & 28– Spirituality for Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

MGCH – Chapter 12
Class Presentation Group 1

October 3 & 5– Strategy for Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 15, 18
MGCH – Chapter 2, Chapter 5

October 10 – Strategy for Church Evangelism (continued)

October 12 – ***Midterm Exam***

October 17 & 19 – **Fall Break/No Class**

October 24 & 26 – Personal Evangelism and Apologetics in Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 16, Chapter 17
MGCH – Chapter 3, Chapter 13, Chapter 14
Class Presentation Group 2

October 31 & November 2 – Worship Evangelism
EH – Chapter 19
MGCH – Chapter 9
Personal Evangelism Reports Due

November 7 & 9 – Mass Evangelism
EH – Chapter 20
MGCH – Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Chapter 10
Class Presentation Group 3

November 14 & 16 – Multigenerational Church Evangelism
EH – Chapter 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
MGCH – Chapter 17, Chapter 18
Strategy Paper Due

November 21 & 23 – **Thanksgiving/No Class**

November 28 & 30 – Servanthood/Ministry and Sports Evangelism
EH – Chapter 26
MGCH – Chapter 11, Chapter 15, Chapter 16
Class Presentation Group 4

December 5 & 7 – Assimilation: Closing the Back Door
Models for Church Evangelism
Evangelistic Leadership
MGCH – Chapter 6, Chapter 19

December 12– ***Final Exam***
(9:00 – 11:00 AM)

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences of more than six hours will result in the student automatically failing the course. A student's tardiness three times will be counted as one absence. This policy also applies to leaving early. Please inform the instructor if you will be leaving the class before the end of the period.

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.

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.

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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 a 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?

**EVAN5250 Church Evangelism
Grading Rubric for Evangelism Strategy Assignment**

Student: _____

Professor: _____

Semester: _____

Grade: _____

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Provided description of the church's community utilizing appropriate demographic information.	10 points	
Provided an historical analysis of the church including both institutional and spiritual factors. Included evangelistic obstacles, present programs, and strengths/weaknesses of the church.	10 points	
Developed a multi-faceted evangelistic strategy for the church which is contextual, informed, workable, and spiritual in nature. Included the five stages of an effective strategy with corresponding actions/events.	50 points	
Included a twelve month calendar with actions/events that execute the evangelistic strategy.	20 points	
Report is free of errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, word choice, format, and Turabian style issues. Strategy is at least eight pages long not including calendar.	10 points	