



**EVAN5373 Reaching the Postmodern,
Dechurched, and the Uninterested
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Fall Semester, 2021 (Internet)**

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare students to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to discover insights into the emerging challenges and opportunities for evangelistic Christian ministry in a pluralistic society. Students will explore cross-cultural methods and develop skills in communicating Jesus Christ with those who have been influenced by postmodernity and other popular worldviews. Interviews, surveys, Internet research, and role playing will be significant components in the learning process.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop an understanding of postmodernism and its relationship to evangelism.
2. Students will study the unchurched in contemporary culture.
3. Students will become familiar with significant literature related to postmodernism and the unchurched.
4. Students will learn how to lead their own church to better evangelize the unchurched.

Course Teaching Methodology

In coordination with Blackboard lectures, reading assignments, and threaded discussions, students will enhance their skills in evangelizing the unchurched through three closely related ways:

1. Developing a comprehensive understanding of postmodernism and its relationship to evangelism.
2. Developing conceptual tools and frameworks that help make sense of the different types of unchurched peoples.
3. Analyzing and developing solutions to evangelizing the unchurched.

In addition to internet case/class interactions, students will have discussions with unchurched persons in their community.

Textbooks

White, Heath. *Postmodernism 101: A First Course for the Curious Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Group, a Division of Baker Publishing Group, 2006.

Barna, George and David Kinnaman, Eds. *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.

Inserra, Dean. *The Unsaved Christian: Reaching Cultural Christians with the Gospel*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2019.

Greer, Sam. *The Gospel Conversationalist: How Jesus Engaged the Lost in Everyday Life*. Bloomington: IN: WestBow Press, 2018.

Article

Boghossian, Peter. "The Best Way to Evaluate Your Beliefs? Engage with People who Disagree with You." Los Angeles Times. July 21, 2019. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-07-19/peter-boghossian-james-lindsay-seek-other-viewpoints>.

Class Schedule

Guided by the course schedule with its due dates, students are expected to: (1) log on to Blackboard in order to: read and download the weekly materials and interact with the professor's questions and comments made by other students in the class via the class Discussion Board, (2) complete the assignments and submit reports to the professor by the assigned due date.

Course Assignments:

A. Reading Assignments:

1. Student will read the four required textbooks.
 2. Written Report: A five page (typed; double-spaced) critique:
Answer at least the following.
 - a. What was the authors primary purpose in writing this book?
 - b. A brief summary of the book.
 - c. Did the author accomplish his purpose?
 - d. What did you like about the book?
 - e. With what did you disagree or have questions about?
 3. Student will read one required article
 4. Written Response: A two page (typed; double spaced) critique:
Answer at least the following.
 - a. What was the author's primary purpose in writing this article?
 - b. A brief summary of the article.
 - c. Did the author accomplish his purpose?
 - d. What did you like about the article?
 - e. With what did you disagree or have questions about?Consult Blackboard for the book review format.
3. **Due Dates:** White - **Sept. 06**, Barna – **Sept. 27**, Inserra – **Oct 11** , Greer – **Nov. 01** and Boghossian – **Nov. 15**

B. Interview Paper: Prepare a paper summarizing interviews with the Unchurched and the Dechurched proposing ways to better evangelize these types of persons based on the interviews.

1. Summarize interviews with four unchurched persons.
2. Suggest ways to better evangelize the Unchurched/Dechurched based on the interviews.
3. Length: 8-10 pages
4. Due: **Dec. 01.**

C. Topical Paper: Prepare a topical paper on a topic related to Evangelism and the Unchurched

1. Report on a topic related to evangelizing the Unchurched/Dechurched.
2. Topic selected with the professors approval by **Sept. 09.**
3. Length: 12-15 pages
4. Due: **Dec. 08.**

D. Class Participation: Active participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. 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.**

Course Evaluation

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

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Book & Article Reviews	20%
Unchurched Interview Paper	20%
Topical Paper	40%
Class Participation - Discussion Board	20%

Course Policies

Students will be expected to have access to online resources to download course materials in the Seminary’s Blackboard system.

Assignments will be emailed to the professor and grader using either Microsoft Word (.doc or docx) or WordPerfect (.doc or .docx) formats. An additional copy should be sent in pdf format.

Assignments are expected to be submitted by 12 midnight via email on the date indicated on the class schedule. Exceptions to this schedule must be approved by the professor before the due date.

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.

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.

Approved NOBTS Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Topical Paper - Possible Subjects

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 churchd)
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

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