



## **EVAN6351-01 Contemporary Trends in Growing an Evangelistic Church Internet Class: June 2 - July 24, 2015**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Pastoral Ministry Division

**Professor Name**  
Dr. Bill Day

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*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.*

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

### **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.

### **Core Values:**

The seminary's core values are: (1) doctrinal integrity, (2) spiritual vitality, (3) mission focus, (4) characteristic excellence, and (5) servant leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity by using the Bible to help determine the characteristics of a healthy church. Characteristic excellence is a focus of this course because it deals with the most important characteristics required for a church to be healthy. Spiritual vitality is important to the course because it is believed that spiritually vital persons are a necessary part of a healthy church. The core value for NOBTS this year is **spiritual vitality**.

## **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

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 and historical 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. Effective servant leadership: The course is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship, importance, and practice of servant leadership to contemporary evangelism.
4. Interpersonal relationships: This course emphasizes the importance of interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of successful evangelism in a contemporary setting.
5. 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.
6. Worship leadership: The relationship between worship and effective evangelism in contemporary settings is noted in the course.

## **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.

## **Required Reading**

Each student will read the four required textbooks. The textbooks are:

1. Aldrich, Joe. *Lifestyle Evangelism: Learning to Open Your Life to Those Around You*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2006.
2. Von Buseck, Craig. *Netcasters: Using the Internet to Make Fishers of Men*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2010.
3. Geisler, David and Norman Geisler. *Conversational Evangelism: How to Listen & Speak So You Can Be Heard*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2009.

## **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.

### **Class Schedule**

Students are expected to (1) log onto Blackboard at least twice weekly in order to read and download weekly materials and interact with the professor's questions and comments using the class Discussion Board and (2) email assignments to the professor by their due dates, and conduct research related to research papers assigned in the course.

### **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: **Aldrich: June 30, Von Buseck: July 12, and Geisler: July 19.**

#### **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: **July 24, 2014**

#### **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: **July 24, 2014**
- 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 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

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.**

#### Course Evaluation

1. Book Reviews	25%
2. Interview Paper	20%
3. Topical Paper	30%
4. Class Participation	25%

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