



## **EVAN5250-01 CHURCH EVANGELISM**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Ministry

**Spring 2021 \* Tuesday \* 2:00-3:50 PM**

### **Dr. Preston L. Nix**

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### **Mission Statement**

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

### **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**

Price, Wm. Craig, gen. ed. *Engage: Tools for Contemporary Evangelism*. Birmingham, AL: NOBTS Press, an imprint of Iron Stream Media, 2019.

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 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 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 **February 9**. 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 April 6**.

3. **Two exams**: Midterm Exam will be on **March 23**. Final Exam will be on **May 11**.

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 April 27**.

### **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%)

**Note: A student must complete ALL of the above assignments in order to pass the class.**

### **Class Schedule**

January 19 – Syllabus and Introductions

January 26 – What is Church Evangelism?  
ETCE – pp. 33-60

February 2 – Why Engage in Church Evangelism?  
ETCE – pp. 3-14  
MGCH – Chapter 1, Chapter 4

February 9 – Theology for Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 107-148  
*Interview with Lost/Unchurched Due*

February 16 – **Mardi Gras/No Class**

February 23 – History of Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 61-103

March 2 – Spirituality for Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 15-32, 165-176  
MGCH – Chapter 12  
*Class Presentation Group 1*

March 9 – Strategy for Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 225-302  
MGCH – Chapter 2, Chapter 5

March 15-19 – **Spring Break/No Class**

March 23 – *Midterm Exam*

March 30 – Personal Evangelism & Apologetics in Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 203-224, 149-164  
MGCH – Chapter 3, Chapter 13, Chapter 14  
*Class Presentation Group 2*

April 6 – Worship Evangelism & Mass/Event Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 177-200, 260-278  
MGCH – Chapters 7 – 10  
*Personal Evangelism Reports Due*

April 13 – Church Planting & Multicultural Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 371-428  
*Class Presentation Group 3*

April 20 – Multigenerational Church Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 303-359  
MGCH – Chapter 17, Chapter 18

April 27 – Servanthood/Ministry & Sports Evangelism  
ETCE – pp. 360-370  
MGCH – Chapter 11, Chapter 15, Chapter 16  
*Strategy Paper Due*

May 4 – Assimilation: Closing the Back Door  
Models for Church Evangelism

Evangelistic Leadership  
MGCH – Chapter 6, Chapter 19

May 11 – *Final Exam*  
(2:00 – 4:00 PM)

### **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.

### **Writing Style Guide**

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). 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>

### **Technical Assistance**

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

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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	