



Church Evangelism EVAN5250

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministries Division

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Fall 2012: 5-7 pm on Mondays—8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/26, 12/3

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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries with a special focus on developing ministries and strategies for the local church in the area of evangelism and disciple making.

Core Value Focus

The core value mission focus for this year is “Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.”

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The core competencies addressed in this course include the following areas:

1. *Spiritual Vitality*: Evangelism is a part of the spiritual vitality for the individual Christian and for the church body as a whole.
2. *Mission Focus*: Carrying out of the Great Commission is consistent with the value of mission focus.
3. *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. Characteristic Excellence is the core value focus for the current academic year.
4. *Doctrinal Integrity*: Evangelistic ministry of the local church must be grounded on the solid Biblical doctrine.

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.

Learning Objectives

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:
 - a. The biblical mandate for church evangelism.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The ministry of evangelism; approaches to evangelism; and the biblical, theological, and historical aspects of evangelism.

2. Value the following concepts:
 - a. Sharing the Gospel with non-Christians.
 - b. 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.

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts

*Reid, Alvin. *Evangelism Handbook: Biblical, Spiritual, Intentional, Missional*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2009. (ISBN: 0805445420). Labeled as EH in reading assignments

* Johnston, Thomas and Philip Roberts, eds. *Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest: Voices and Views from the Southern Baptist Professors of Evangelism*

Fellowship. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011. (ISBN: 1610972643).
Labeled as MGCC in reading assignments.

Course Teaching Methodology

Teaching Method. 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.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. **Personal Evangelism.** Each Student will complete 4 Personal Evangelism Reports. The student is to encounter a lost person during the semester and share the gospel with them. The “Personal Evangelism Report Sheet” template to be used for the 4 reports will be handed out the first day of class and/or disseminated via blackboard or email.
2. **Reading Quizzes:** The student is expected to complete the assigned reading prior to class sessions. Therefore, throughout the semester, reading quizzes will be given.
3. **Blackboard Articles and Discussion Threads:** Because this class is designed in a Hybrid format, the expectation of the professor is that students will put in at least 1 additional hour of work (in addition to any assigned homework/projects/readings) in order to get full credit for this class. Therefore, the professor will place an article, video clip, or audio/video sermon every Sunday on Blackboard. Students will be expected to read/watch/listen to the material posted and then engage the content as it pertains to Church Evangelism in a thorough and seminary level manner via a discussion thread sometime during the week. Moreover, students will be graded not only on how they respond to the posted material by the professor but also on how they respond to other comments made by other classmates. The goal of these assignments is for the content to create thinking, reflection, and dialogue outside of the classroom setting.
4. **Two Exams:** A Mid-Term and a Final. Material in the assigned readings as well as class notes may be used for questions. The Final will be specific to material covered after the mid-term.
5. **Case Study:** Students will be pick a church and examine its evangelism practices and then provide a “consultation report” on what they would suggest to improve or enhance the ministry of evangelism within that specific church. This report should follow the Turabian style guide in general matters, be 6-8 pages, double spaced, New Times Roman 12 font.

The case study should be broken down into the following sections:

- a. History and Background Information about the church:
 - i. In this section, the student should try to gather general information about the church that may impact evangelism efforts
 1. The number of baptisms for past years/decade

- a. Are the baptism numbers increasing, decreasing, or about the same? Is there a reason for the increase/decrease?
 2. Average attendance of church body on Sundays
 3. Tenure and education of the current pastor
 4. How would pastor describe his leadership/strengths?
 - a. Is he best as a teacher/preacher? An evangelist? An administrator?
 5. Number and responsibilities of staff persons
 6. Are the pastor and staff expected to reach a certain number of people for Christ a year?
 - a. If so, what how is staff held accountable?
 - b. What happens if staff does not reach “quota”?
 7. Location and community dynamic of church property (a growing area, a poor area of town, the suburbs, a church plant in a school, etc...)
- b. Evangelism Strategy
- i. In this section, the student should strive to identify via interviews, observations, and materials the church’s evangelism strategy
 1. Student should try to obtain how often the pastor/staff are engaged in personal evangelism during a typical week/month
 2. Student should discuss how the strategy/vision is shared by the staff to the church body
 3. Student should discuss how the strategy/vision for evangelism is implemented by the church
 4. Student should discuss findings on how effective the strategy is for the church (is the whole church involved? Do only a few come to the “outreach” program? Etc...)
- c. Consultation
- i. The student should discuss the strengthens and weaknesses of the pastor/church’s current evangelism strategy
 - ii. The student should offer areas where they would change/improve the church’s current practices

Course Policies

Grading Scale

Class Participation	5%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Blackboard Articles & Discussion Threads	10%
Personal Evangelism Reports	15%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Case Study	20%

Grading Breakdown

A = 93-100

B = 85-92

C = 77-84

D = 70-76

F = 69 or below

NOTE: A grade of “F” will be assigned to students who miss class more than 2 times.

Withdraws: Any student who wishes to withdraw from this course after the drop/add deadline must request the class withdrawal in writing with the Registrar’s Office and/or the academic advisor’s office. The student will receive a grade of “WP”, “WF”, or “F” for the class based on the coursework completed at that time.

- If any student has special learning needs, please contact the professor.
- While this syllabus is helpful and will be the primary guide for our topics and discussion for the semester, I reserve the right to amend the timing of an assignment or the topic to be covered on any given day based on my belief that the change will be in the best interest of the student's educational experience.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
8/27	Course Introduction—“What is Evangelism and Why Is It Important to Examine Church Evangelism?”	EH: 1 MGCC: 1	
9/10	“Biblical and Theological Elements of Evangelism”	EH: 2-6, 9, 10	*Personal Evangelism Report
9/24	“The History of and Important Individuals Connected to Evangelism in America: Awakenings, Revivals, and Current Trends”	EH: 7-8	*Personal Evangelism Report
10/8	MIDTERM		
10/22	“Fulfilling Matthew 28: Strategies for Developing an Evangelistic Church”	EH: 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 18 MGCC: 2, 3, 5, 13, 19	*Personal Evangelism Report
11/5	“The Role of Apologetics in Church Evangelism”	EH: 23	*Personal Evangelism Report

		MGCC: 14	
11/26	“One Goal, Many Means: Implementing Strategies Like Evangelistic Preaching, Revivals, Sports Evangelism, Big Events, and Servant Evangelism in the Local Church”	EH: 19, 20 MGCC: 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18	
12/3	FINAL EXAM		*Case Study Due

Selected Bibliography

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