

Church Evangelism EVAN5350
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary: Graceville Extension
Pastoral Ministries

Spring 2011 (Thursday 6:00 p.m. -10:30 p.m.)
1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5

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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.

Pastoral Ministries Division Mission Statement

To prepare leaders by the development of the skills necessary for performing pastoral ministries, primarily within the context of the Church, and to assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the gifts and skills of Division members.

Core Value Focus

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in 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. Mission Focus is the core value focus for the current academic year.
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.
4. Doctrinal Integrity – Evangelistic ministry of the local church must be grounded on the solid Biblical doctrine.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

- 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 which 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 – 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:
 - 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.

Course 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.

Textbooks (2 out of 6)

Evangelism Handbook -- Alvin Reid

The Purpose Driven Church -- Rick Warren

Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches that Reach Them - by Ed Stetzer, Richie Stanley, and Jason Hayes

Transformational Church – Thom Rainer

Taking Your Church to the Next Level – Gary McIntosh

Missional Renaissance – Reggie McNeal

Course Requirements

1. Each student will complete **two interviews** with people the student believes are not Christians or have been out of church for at least 12 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 people, 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 them 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 them know that their 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 them or to debate with them; simply record their answers on a notepad. If they ask your opinion, gracefully decline (because you do not want to influence their answer). *After* the interview, if the person asks you to tell them your beliefs, listen to the Holy Spirit and 1) either set another time to get together for that purpose or 2) go ahead and share. THE POINT, if they feel you are conning them into a witnessing opportunity, you will not get their 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 17**. 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 March 24**.

3. **Two exams**: First Sectional will be on **March 3**, Second Sectional will be on **May 5**.

4. Each student will read **two books**; the first book must be **Handbook to Evangelism** and another book may be chosen by the student from the list of textbooks supplied by the professor. The student will be asked to sign a reading certificate ascertaining the percentage of the books read and submit three-page single spaced summary on each book. The student must be prepared to facilitate presentation and discussion of the selected book. The assignment is due **April 7.**

5. Each student will interview a pastor (or the staff member) of a highly evangelistic church. The list of churches will be available within the first two weeks of class. A student may select a highly evangelistic church from that is not on the list with an approval of the professor. A sample of questions will be provided in class. The student should be prepared to report on his or her interview on **April 21.**

6. 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. Aforementioned assignment is **due May 5.**

Course Evaluation (% of Grade)

1. Personal Evangelism Reports (10%)
2. First Sectional Exam (20%)
3. Second Sectional Exam (20%)
4. Interviews with the Unchurched (10%)
5. Interview with a Pastor/Staff Member (10%)
6. Reading Certificate and Reports for Two Books (15%)
7. Comprehensive Evangelism Strategy with a Calendar (15%)

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 emailing the professor. Make-up exams will be more difficult than the regularly scheduled exams.
- 2) Assignments will be penalized four points for each day it is 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. All due work except the Exams and Evangelism Strategy will be submitted via the Blackboard.
- 4) All work must be completed on the day of the Final Exam with no work accepted after it.
- 5) The student should submit all assigned work to receive a passing grade for the class.

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?

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