BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DOTHAN CAMPUS
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Summer 2013
PT5637 Personal Evangelism
Professor: Dr. W. Charles Lewis
Class Hours: 2

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COURSE PURPOSE

This course provides training in personal evangelism introducing students to various styles under special supervision.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to distinguish the evangelist from the other gifted persons mentioned in Ephesians 4:11.
2. The student will be able to articulate the content of the gospel and where to find it in scripture.
3. The student will be able to define what is the work of the evangelist.
4. The student will learn the role of the Triune God in evangelism and the importance of prayer in evangelism.
5. The student will learn four methods of presenting the gospel and how to employ each method.
6. The student will learn how to present his/her personal testimony and to help others do the same.
7. The student will present the gospel message to a non-Christian.
8. The student will learn how to follow-up with new converts.

COURSE TEXTS

Cecil, Douglas M. The 7 Principals of an Evangelistic Life ISBN 0802409245
Newman, Randy Questioning Evangelism ISBN 082543324X
Moyer, Larry Dear God, I'm Ticked Off ISBN 0825431751

Recommended TEXTS

Aldrich, Joseph C. Life-Style Evangelism ISBN 0-930014-46-4
Coleman, Robert E. The Master Plan of Evangelism ISBN 64-23345
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Quizzes: a review of the course material will be administered via quizzes.
2. Book Critiques (4): write a critical paper of 2 pages on each book. As you read ask yourself these questions:
   a. What is the book about as a whole? (Description)
   b. What is the author saying in detail and how is it said: (Interpretation)
   c. Is the book true, in whole or on part, is it applicable to your situation? (Criticism)
   d. What is the significance of the book? (Personal, Spiritual, Academic formations and application for your life)
   e. Do you agree/disagree with the author? (Foundational Reasons)
   f. As you write these critiques your goal is to answer these questions concisely and achieving Master’s level requirements. This is not a book report.
3. Gospel Presentations. Based on the information/demonstration presented in class, present the gospel to a non-Christian. The instructor or fellow classmate will serve as a training partner. Two (2) Gospel presentations are to be given.
4. Personal Testimony. Prepare your personal salvation testimony and present it as though you were sharing it at an evangelistic Church service.
5. Witness Experience. Share the gospel with a non-Christian. Look for evangelistic opportunities on a daily basis.
6. Final

COURSE GRADING

1. Quizzes 10%
2. Book critiques 40%
3. Gospel presentation 10%
4. Personal Testimony 10%
5. Witness Experience 15%
6. Final 15%

COURSE FORMATS & STYLE STANDARDS

Note: All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. Times New Roman #12 font doubled-spaced.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Therefore, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to
the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

6/6  Class overview and syllabus
6/13  Defining terms – The evangelist
6/20  Defining terms – The gospel (Packer due)
6/27  The Power of the gospel
7/4   Independence Day (No Class)
7/11  God and man in evangelism
7/18  Paul’s evangelistic Strategy (Cecil due)
7/25  Evangelism and the Personal Testimony
8/1   The work of the Evangelist (Moyer due)
8/8   Gospel Presentations
8/15  Gospel Presentations (Newman due)
8/22  Obstacle to Evangelism
8/22  Final
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anyabwile’s book is an excellent book clearly laying out the gospel and its power. It does not search for gimmicks and angles with which to approach Muslims; it sets forth the power of the biblical gospel. It does contain some good advice about the key points of concern when sharing the gospel with Muslims, but this advice exalts the gospel. The first part of the book is really applicable to all kinds of evangelism, not just the for evangelizing Muslims.

This is a helpful work that examines the need for evangelism, the biblical definition of the gospel and the biblical patterns of evangelism. Those who take a presuppositional approach to apologetics will disagree with some of his assessment of Paul at Athens (Acts 17), but overall it is very good book on evangelism.

Barrs continues what he began in The Heart of Evangelism in his examination of the patterns of evangelism in the book of Acts. In this volume he examines the evangelistic patterns of Jesus and draws practical conclusions from Jesus’ practice of evangelism.

Revell, 1993.
A classic book on evangelism. It is helpful. However, it does not deal with some of the errors that have sprung up in the presentation of the gospel (e.g., Easy Believism).

This is an excellent book encouraging evangelism to be done and to be done biblically with a sound presentation of the gospel. There are many helpful stories and suggestions in the book that illustrate effective evangelism. This book could be profitably used in a local church to encourage and train people for evangelism.

This is a scholarly examination of the evangelistic methods of the early church. It is well researched, but it is written from a very broadly evangelical perspective that has some serious doctrinal issues. The most concerning of these issues is the flawed Christology presented in some sections of the book.

Although the title of this work sounds quite helpful, the book takes a wrong angle on evangelism. It is not that we do not want our Christianity to be contagious, but this book views evangelism in a very man-centered way.

Donald McGavran became the founding advocate for the Church Growth Movement. McGavran’s book has been used by a wide variety of teachers and pastors to advocate various approaches to evangelism (Willow Creek, Purpose Driven, etc.). This is a work that is worth being familiar with for its massive impact, but it is very pragmatic. It seems to emphasize sociological type research over a biblical pattern of evangelism.

McRaney’s book has some helpful information on communication skills and on understanding the changes in American culture. His presentation of the gospel message is good, but not as clear as the presentations in other books on this list. His quotations and examples of men like Bill Hybels and Bill Bright cause hesitancy in regard to a strong recommendation of this book.

This is an excellent book that presents the vast difference between proclaiming a man-centered versus a God-centered gospel. This book is especially helpful in illustrating how methods reflect beliefs about the message of the gospel.

A simple little book that records the life-long experiences of one man’s evangelism in his life relationships. It is an encouraging little book that has some interesting stories. It is not really a training manual or a discussion of evangelism. It is more an illustration of evangelism.

Newman advocates doing evangelism with questions. He claims this follows the pattern of the Old and New Testaments and especially Jesus. He lists common questions that unbelievers ask and some biblical answers to the questions. He also asks questions about the motives and attitudes of believers in regard to evangelism. This is a helpful book overall and gives some good suggestions for engaging in evangelism.

This is a modern classic. In a very clear and readable way Packer explains the importance of giving the gospel and trusting God to provide the results. He declares the biblical truth that human responsibility and the sovereignty of God are not opposed to each other, but are friends. This book is an encouragement to evangelize and to evangelize properly.

Posterski’s book is a little dated. It gives a good summary of American culture and pluralism and often rightly assesses the problems and opportunities in America. However, the book is problematic because of a far too broad definition of Christianity. It is very ecumenical in its emphasis and it minimizes the true gospel because of that.

This book is a more practical guide to evangelism than Reid’s earlier Introduction to Evangelism (see below). It has helpful suggestions and has an excellent emphasis on the need to change the DNA of a church (not just programs) in order to get the church to be biblically evangelistic. However, Reid is quite open to church growth ideas. He is open to considering broad input from theologically diverse schools of thought (emergent, church growth, etc.). This openness makes the book less helpful.

Reid’s volume on evangelism is intended to be a textbook for a seminary level course on evangelism. It is not really helpful for local church evangelism training. It examines the various approaches to evangelism throughout history and it engages in an examination of how to respond to modern culture.

Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People*
Richardson’s book is extremely helpful in creating an understanding of the Postmodern spirit of the West. He has some great assessments and explanations of the culture of the West in the twenty-first century. However, his solutions rely too heavily on the culture and are very man-centered (he emphasizes a felt-needs approach).

This is a book full of gimmicks to open opportunities for the gospel. Most of the ideas are good deed actions that are intended to change opinions about Christians and thereby open up opportunities for the gospel. It is not especially helpful for those seeking to model the New Testament pattern.

This is a practical and pastoral work by Spurgeon. It is a classic and should be read by all ministers of the gospel. I was intrigued to notice that Spurgeon uses the term soul winner equally of preaching the gospel as he does to personal one-to-one evangelism. Clearly there was a shift in thinking at some point in the Twentieth Century to think of soul winning as only personal evangelism. However, Spurgeon does not denigrate personal evangelism, in fact he encourages it with this work.

This is an easy read. It emphasizes the need to keep and build relationships with people from our family to our neighbors to the people we are yet to meet. It teaches that relationships are the key to evangelism and even life. The book has a helpful stress on building relationships with people to win them to Christ. However, it is filled with man-centered theology and clichés. There are some interesting charts and graphics in the book, but the book overall is has many problems.

This is an interesting little book about Walter Wilson’s experiences in personal evangelism. The stories are a bit dated and many of the approaches would be awkward in our time. The gospel is more often assumed that presented in the book. Nonetheless, the stories of people coming to salvation
in Christ still cause rejoicing.