Evangelism – 04MS508  
RTS – Atlanta  
Dr. James Saxon  
Summer 2012

Course Title – Evangelism and Soul-winning (04MS508)

Class Schedule: Four days – 9:00-4:30pm - August 8-11, 2012  
All day practicum – Saturday 11th, 9-3pm – downtown Atlanta.

Purpose of the Course – To help believers fulfill the mandate of II Tim 4:5 - “Do the work of an evangelist, (and) fulfill your ministry.”

Course Description – This Evangelism Training Course is designed to be a practical overview of the ministry of evangelism and soul winning. It is structured to cover the fundamental aspects of the biblical paradigm for evangelism as well as to equip and to train students to actively engage our culture for soul-winning purposes. The atmosphere will be one of highly interactive learning designed to develop in students a balance of knowledge (learning), understanding (equipping), and wisdom (engaging) in the fine art of soul-winning.

Course Objectives:
The overall goal of the class is to stir our zeal for evangelism, root it in the soil of biblical content, and ground it on the foundation of sound theology.  
To build confidence to overcome the natural fears inherent in doing evangelism.  
To de-mystify evangelism and make it practical and understandable.  
To learn insights, approaches, and practices in evangelism that are current and relevant to reaching lost people in today’s culture.  
To learn a comprehensive view of evangelism as a process, not as point action.

Topics to be Covered:
The Biblical Basis for Evangelism  
Introduction and Overview  
God’s Heart for the Lost – OT  
God’s Heart for the Lost – NT  
God’s Commission to the Church  
God’s Sovereignty in Soul-Winning  
Man’s Responsibility in Soul-Winning

The Fine Points of Soul-Winning
The Identity of the Soul-winner  
Pitfalls in Soul-winning – The Apostolic Paradigm  
God’s Plan for Soul-winning  
Mastering Basic Skills – The Key to Building Confidence  
The Art of a Good Testimony  
Winning a Soul – How it Usually Looks
The Evangelism Process
Understanding the Primary Target Group
Finding the Open Door
Effectively Presenting the Gospel
Inviting a Person to Receive Christ
Follow-up of New Believers
Positioning Growing Believers to Press on to Maturity

Course Requirements:

*Class attendance and interaction – 25% of the final grade – this includes active participation in the Saturday field project.*

*Reading of Assigned Texts - 25% of the final grade - see the list below – Each assigned reading requires a one page single spaced report highlighting the main theses as well as key principles, insights, and practices gathered from the reading.*

*Final Exam – 2 Parts – 50% of the final grade – this must be completed in a timely manner
Oral – 25% of the Final Grade - Evaluates how well the student articulates a written draft of each student’s salvation testimony.
Written – 25% of the final grade - Evaluates each student’s understanding of the content of the course lectures.*


Book of Acts – Read Devotionally - Journal entry of readings with a one sentence summary of the heartbeat of each chapter. *Due at the final class –8/31.*

Rainer, Thom S. *The Unchurched Next Door* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003). *Report due by – 9/7*

One selection from the Recommended Reading List

*Reports can be turned in before their due dates.*
Recommended Reading

(choose ONE of the following - Report due by – 9/21)


*Dr. Saxon is open to students recommending a substitute book for this assignment other than what is listed on this page. Substitutes must be approved by him.*
READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor

Please limit your report to one typed, single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic (Overview, Critique, Application)

Date

Title of Book

Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview – Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique – Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application – Offer some specific application to your own ministry – demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote – Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book though fully (not merely skimmed)? Yes___ No___ % Read (0-100)
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Evangelism  
**Professor:** James Saxon  
**Campus:** Atlanta  
**Date:** August, 2012

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

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<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)**  | Strong     | 1. All day Practicum and Testimony Preparation  
|                                    |            | 2. Final exam tests overall comprehension |
| **Scripture**                      | Strong     | 1. Essential doctrines such as Ordo Salutis will be discussed in detail  
|                                    |            | 2. Course covers Biblical teaching through-out |
| **Reformed Theology**              | Strong     | 1. Overview of Soul Winning Process is rooted in theology  
|                                    |            | 2. Readings emphasize Reformed Perspective |
| **Sanctification**                 | Moderate   | 1. Class discussion centering upon evangelism as being core to Christlikeness |
| **Desire for Worldview**           | Moderate   | 1. Evangelism paradigm emphasizes worldview distinctions between saved and lost |
| **Winsomely Reformed**             | Strong     | 1. Class discussion on winsome evangelism emphasizes the attitudes of love and humility |
| **Preach**                         | Minimum    | 1. Active evangelism will inform one’s preaching directly and indirectly |
| **Worship**                        | None       | 1. Worship is not really touched on in the service |

*In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*

- Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.
- Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)
- Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.
- Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.
- Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.
- Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)
- Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.
- Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.
Shepherd | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | Strong | 1. Evangelism involves lay training and equipping 2. The laity are to be challenged to actively demonstrate love for the lost |
---|---|---|---|
Church/World | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal | 1. Proper understanding of Reformed evangelism energizes active world engagement alongside the broader church |

**Extension Policy**

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

**Teacher/Professor** – This course will be led by Dr. James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 32 years. He was converted to Christ at the age of twenty while a student at the University of Alabama. His conversion was so dramatic that he decided against going into the business world with his Marketing Degree and instead began pursuit of his call to pastoral ministry by enrolling in RTS Jackson in the summer of 1975. After serving as a youth director for two summers, and taking a year internship at the well-known Spanish River Presbyterian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, he discerned God’s calling to go into church planting. He founded and pastored the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida for 20 years and had oversight of the founding of one daughter church, Redeemer Presbyterian
Church in Brandon, Florida. He joined the staff of the fast-growing, outreach-minded Church of The Apostles in Atlanta in the fall of 2000. Since coming to Apostles, he has served in a variety of staff roles and has recently assumed the role of Director of ApostlesLife

In addition to being a successful church-planter, James spearheaded the founding of the Southwest Florida Presbytery in the early 1990’s, and then led the effort to host the 2000 General Assembly in Tampa by that presbytery. He graduated from the RTS Doctorate of Ministry program in the spring of 2005, completing his dissertation entitled, “Empowering the Local Church through Mentoring” which featured a practicum that field-tested mentoring seminary students as a part of their theological education.

He is currently the director of the ministry initiative entitled ApostlesLife, a twenty year outreach ministry strategy. This core ministry of The Church of The Apostles is a cutting-edge evangelism strategy that inculcates many current ideas and approaches that are successfully being utilized in soul-winning around the country.

He also supervises four departments – Children’s, Student, College, and Young Adult Ministries. Since 2005, he has served as a guest lecturer at RTS Atlanta and has taught three courses, Evangelism, Pastoral Ministry, and this Introduction to Theological and Pastoral Ministry course. Though he is currently involved in outreach ministry, he is a pastor at heart and his life ministry verse is Colossians 1:28, “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.”