

Syllabus 6MS508 Evangelism

Reformed Theological Seminary Washington DC
Fall 2011

Dr John R. Hutchinson

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION BY THE
INSTRUCTOR BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

I. Purpose of the Course

This course is designed to give you an introductory overview of the ministry of evangelism. The emphasis will be on helping you develop a more biblical and theological understanding of evangelism and equipping you to be more effective in your personal evangelism and in your ministry leadership roles as an equipper and facilitator of evangelistic ministries.

II. Course Objectives

A Mind for Truth: Deepening Your Understanding

- To understand and articulate a biblical theology of evangelism.
- To understand the role of the church in evangelism, especially as it relates to church planting, growth, and multiplication.
- To understand the cultural barriers to the gospel in a secular post-modern society.
- To understand the role of discipleship, spiritual multiplication, and transferability in evangelism.
- To understand the nature of the gospel and the essential elements of an evangelistic presentation.
- To be acquainted with the literature, programs, and resources presently available for equipping Christians to be more effective in evangelism.

A Heart for God: Transforming Your Affections

- To have a deep, personal conviction concerning the biblical priority of evangelism in Christian ministry.
- To have a broken heart for the lost, especially for those who are presently in your network of relationships.
- To have a personal commitment to pray for the lost, especially for those who are presently in your network of relationships.

A Life for Ministry: Developing Your Behaviors

- To learn how to present the gospel effectively.
- To think through how best to engage an evangelistic program in the ministry of a local church.
- To be a personal soul winner, "doing the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim. 4:5) as a way of life.
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III. Course Format

This course is scheduled to be taught in 6 four-hour classroom sessions beginning Thursday, September 15 and ending December 15. Classroom sessions will include: lecture (including guest lecturers), class interaction and oral reports and role playing. Individual and small group work sessions may be conducted outside of class time. Group study outside of class is strongly encouraged, including preparation for the final exam.

IV. Course Texts

Required:

Allender, Dan B., *To Be Told*, Colorado Springs: Water Books, 2005.
Dever, Mark, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2007.
Metzger, Will, *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 3rd Edition, 2002.
Packer, J.I., *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Very Highly Recommended:

Barrs, Jerram, *The Heart of Evangelism*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2001.
Borthwick, Paul, *Stop Witnessing and Start Loving*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.
Hybels, Bill and Mittelberg, Mark, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1996.
Hybels, Bill, *Just Walk Across the Room*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 2006
Kennedy, D. James, *Evangelism Explosion*. (4th edition) Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2002.
Smallman, Stephen E., *Spiritual Birthline*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2006.

Highly Recommended:

Beeke, Joel R., *Puritan Evangelism: A Biblical Approach*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 1999.
Erickson, Millard J., *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical Responses to the Challenge of Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.
Guder, Darrell L. et. al. (eds.), *Missional Church: A Vision of the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.
Lovelace, Richard, *Renewal as a Way of Life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
Macchia, Stephan A., *Becoming a Healthy Church: 10 Characteristics*. Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 1999.
McLaren, Brian D., *The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.
_____, *More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
Miller, C. John (Jack), *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1999.
_____, *Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, Revised 1997

Recommended:

Aldrich, Joseph C., *Life-Style Evangelism*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1981.
Bonar, Horatius, *Words to Winners of Souls*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1995.
Clowney, Edmund, *The Church: Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1995.
Coleman, Robert E., *The Master Plan Of Evangelism*. Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1963.
Kuiper, R.B., *God Centered Evangelism*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1978.
McDowell, Josh, *More Than a Carpenter*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1987.
Logan, Robert E., *Beyond Church Growth*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1989.
Long, Jimmy, *Generating Hope*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
Peterson, Jim, *Living Proof (Sharing The Gospel Naturally)*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1994.
Pippert, Rebecca Manley, *Hope Has Its Reasons*. Harper San Francisco, 1989.
_____. *Out Of the Salt Shaker And Into the World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1979.
Pritchard, Ray, *An Anchor for the Soul*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2000.
Sproul, R.C., *Reasons to Believe*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
Stott, John R. W., *Our Guilty Silence*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1969.
Spurgeon, C. H., *The Soul-Winner*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.
Warren, Rick, *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

V. Course Requirements

A. Attendance and Class Participation

This course requires attendance and participation. Class lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed all of the assigned readings which are detailed at the end of this syllabus in the section titled, "Course Schedule and Assignment Due Dates".

Note: Class will begin promptly at 12:30pm. Tardiness, unexcused absence and/or lack of class participation will impact your final grade.

B. Evangelism Reading & Recorded Lectures (25%)

You are required to read thoughtfully (not simply skim) the books listed in the required reading in their entirety, and report the percentage of the reading you completed in a form on the final exam:

B. Outreach Assignment and Report (25%)

1. Outreach Assignment Goals

- **Identify** a minimum of at least two non-Christians in your present network of relationships. These people must be geographically near (such that you can meet with them face-to-face). If you would also like to identify someone that is not geographically near, you may do so, but this person would be a third person. **You will be asked to list the names of these people by the second class period.** Please do not ask for modification of this assignment. I understand that this is difficult for many of you who have not had the opportunity to develop relationships with non-Christians. For help, refer to Chapter 8 ("Close Proximity") in Bill Hybels' book, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*.

- **Pray** for those people on your list weekly during this period. Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill their weekly prayer commitment during the semester by recruiting someone to pray with and for them at a regular time each week.
- **Show** them Christ's love. Initiate a friendship. Find out their needs. Establish a common ground. Listen, care, and build a relationship—try not to see such people as merely a class project.
- **Invite** a non-Christian on your list to join you for some activity such as a meal, a movie, a concert, a sports event, exercising together, an outreach event, a worship service, etc.
- **Share** your personal story (testimony) and/or the gospel as God gives you the opportunity. Help them take their next steps toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Be accountable** and share your experiences (whether positive or negative) in the class sessions.

2. Outreach Assignment Report

The student will receive credit for completing this *Outreach Assignment* by submitting a written report (three to five single-spaced pages) including:

- A. The names and descriptions of each person.
- B. A description of the relationship developed with each person, including a description of the invitations issued to each person, focusing on the goals in (1) above. The desire is for you to have a meaningful experience with a non-Christian during the semester. If after three *sincere* invitations to some event, meal, etc., have been made (even if there has been no positive response) this requirement is fulfilled.
- C. The results/lessons learned from these outreach experiences. (Sections B and C should be the bulk of your paper.)
- D. A specific description of your faithfulness in weekly prayer – by accessing the throne of grace on behalf of these people.

Helpful Suggestion:

Consider interviewing a non-Christian. Explain to an unchurched friend, neighbor or stranger that this is simply a ten-minute interview and is part of one of your seminary (or graduate school) classes. All answers are voluntary and confidential, although you are required to write a brief paper reporting some of the answers given in the interview. See the Spirituality Questionnaire in the Gospel Communication Resources Packet (in the course notebook). This has proven to be a helpful “bridge builder” for many students.

C. Gospel Presentation Assignments (30%)

The goal of the *Gospel Presentation* assignments is to help you think through, learn, and develop a transferable gospel presentation you can use for personal evangelism and for training others in evangelism.

1. Write your Story (or one aspect of your story) in such a way that you might share it with someone as a “stand alone” witness or as an entre’ into a Gospel Presentation
2. Write an extended, thorough presentation of the Gospel. This presentation should include:
 - a. Gospel Content
 - The 4 major biblical concepts:
 - i. God
 - ii. Man/sin

- iii. Christ
- iv. Repentance and Faith
- At least one Scripture verse to support each major point within each of the 4 concepts.
- At least one illustration to support each major point within each of the 4 concepts.
- b. A model prayer of repentance and faith in Christ.
- c. A suggested follow-up plan for a new Christian.
- d. The name of a gospel booklet (tract) or book the student approves as a useful tool for witnessing and/or equipping others to witness.

Things to consider: On one level, think of this assignment as an opportunity to develop a transferable evangelism presentation that you can use in a church training program. On another level, think of this assignment as a personal letter to a non-Christian family member or friend (you may even want to send your assignment to someone or write it with someone in mind). However, do not overly-tailor your presentation as to make it ineffective for broader future use.

3. Write a Brief Gospel Presentation that summarizes the Gospel faithfully but one that can be given orally in 3 minutes.

D. Final Examination (20%)

The final exam will be comprehensive and essay in format, including all class reading assignments and lectures. The Essay will be: "What is Biblical Evangelism?"

VI. Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system: 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

Late Assignments Policy

Please do not ask for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), turn in a written request (to my teaching assistant) asking to wave the late penalty with the assignment. Please discuss any such special circumstances with my teaching assistant. Under any circumstances, no assignments will be received after June 1.

Grading Percentages:

- Evangelism Reading (25%)
- Personal Outreach Project Report (25%)
- Gospel Presentation Paper (30%)
- Final Examination (20%)

VII. Course Schedule and Assignment Due Dates

Each Class meets from 12:30 – 4:30 PM

September 15 - Introduction

September 29 -

October 13 – Your Story (written) Due

November 10 – Gospel Presentations Due

December 8 -

December 15 – All Reading Assignments Due
Personal Outreach Project Report Due
Final Exam Essay

***ALL EXAMS, PAPERS AND REPORTS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO
Dr. Hutchinson at john@mcleanpres.org***