Evangelism – 04MS508
RTS – Atlanta
Dr. James Saxon
Spring 2016
jsaxon@apostles.org

Course Title:
• Evangelism and Soul-winning (04MS508)

Class Schedule:
• The class will meet on Tuesday afternoons from March 8th to May 3rd (3:00 – 5:30 p.m.). Class does not meet on April 5th due to Spring Break.
• All day practicum – Saturday, April 30th (9:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Purpose of the Course:
• To help believers fulfill the mandate of II Timothy 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 by making 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 (must let professor know if unable to attend the practicum on the **FIRST DAY** of the course).
  - *Reading of Assigned Texts*
    - 25% of the final grade - see the list below
    - Each assigned reading requires at least 1 page single spaced report highlighting the main theses as well as key principles, insights, and practices gathered from the reading. (See attached Book Report sheet).
  - *Final Exam – 2 Parts – 50% of the final grade*
    - Oral – 25% of the Final Grade - Evaluates how well the student articulates a written draft of his/her salvation testimony.
    - Written – 25% of the final grade - Evaluates each student’s understanding of the content of the course lectures. The date of exam TBA and will be convenient to the class.

• **Required Readings**
  - Rainer, Thom S. *The Unchurched Next Door* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003). **Report due by – 4/12**
  - Book of Acts – Read Devotionally - Journal entry of readings with a one sentence summary of the heartbeat of each chapter. **Due – 4/26.**
  - Elective Reading (see attached list below) – **5/3**

*Reports can be turned in before their due dates.*
Recommended Reading (choose ONE of the following—Report due by 5/3)


READING REPORT SHEET

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:** December, 2013

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| **Articulation (oral & written)**                                                                 | Strong | 1. All day Practicum and Testimony Preparation  
2. Final exam tests overall comprehension |
| Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. |        |                                                                                   |
| **Scripture**                                                                                     | Strong | 1. Essential doctrines such as Ordo Salutis will be discussed in detail  
2. Course covers Biblical teaching through-out |
| 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.) |        |                                                                                   |
| **Reformed Theology**                                                                             | Strong | 1. Overview of Soul Winning Process is rooted in theology  
2. Readings emphasize Reformed Perspective |
| Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. |        |                                                                                   |
| **Sanctification**                                                                                | Moderate| 1. Class discussion centering upon evangelism as being core to Christlikeness |
| Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.                    |        |                                                                                   |
| **Desire for Worldview**                                                                           | Moderate| 1. Evangelism paradigm emphasizes worldview distinctions between saved and lost |
| Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.                                         |        |                                                                                   |
| **Winsomely Reformed**                                                                            | Strong | 1. Class discussion on winsome evangelism emphasizes the attitudes of love and humility |
| 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.) |        |                                                                                   |
| **Preach**                                                                                       | Minimum| 1. Active evangelism will inform one’s preaching directly and indirectly |
| Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. |        |                                                                                   |
| **Worship**                                                                                      | None   | 1. Worship is not really touched on in the service |
| Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. |        |                                                                                   |
| **Shepherd**                                                                                      | Strong | 1. Evangelism involves lay training and equipping  
2. The laity are to be challenged to actively demonstrate love for the |
| 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. |        |                                                                                   |
I. Course Grading Computation: The standard RTS grading scale.
   
   A (97-100)
   A- (94-96)
   B+ (91-93)
   B (88-90)
   B- (86-87)
   C+ (83-85)
   C (80-82)
   C- (78-79)
   D+ (75-77)
   D (72-74)
   D- (70-71)
   F (below 70)

   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)
This course will be led by James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 36 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-long internship at the well-known Spanish River Presbyterian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, he discerned God’s calling to go into church planting. He was founder and pastor of 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 at Apostles, and has created an outreach course called Christianity Examined through which many lost people have been converted. This outreach initiative is a cutting-edge evangelism strategy that inculcates many current ideas and approaches that are successfully being utilized in soul-winning around the country. This strategy and much more will be covered in this course, which will be conducted in a hands-on, interactive atmosphere.

Since 2005, he has served as guest lecturer at RTS Atlanta and teaches three courses - Leadership, Evangelism and Pastoral Care. 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.” He has been married to his wife Cindy for 34 years and has two single daughters, Natalie and Adrienne, who are in their twenties.