

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40280

PERSONAL EVANGELISM--32100
SYLLABUS
Spring 2007
T,R 4:00-5:15 PM
Three Credit Hours
Room N102

J. D. Payne, Ph.D.
502-897-4498 (office)
jpayne@sbts.edu

John Green, Garrett Fellow
preachernteacher@hotmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of personal evangelism designed to equip the minister to train others in a variety of skills related to personal evangelism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course should be able to:

1. Understand the need for personal evangelism.
2. Know how to present the gospel effectively on a person-to-person basis as a way of life.
3. Equip others in personal evangelism.
4. Understand and analyze various schools of thought regarding the efficacy of several methods of evangelism.
5. Know how to obtain resources and materials for evangelism.
6. Improve research, writing, and communication skills through class participation and assignments.
7. Improve in personal evangelism skills.

Required Texts

Beougher, Timothy. *Overcoming Walls to Witnessing*. BGEA, 1993.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1963.

Metzger, Will. *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1961.

Rainer, Thom S. *The Unchurched Next Door*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishers, 2003.

Course Requirements

1. **Participation and Attendance.** Because this course will include lectures, small group discussion, videos, guest speakers, and presentations, students are expected to participate actively in each class. Punctual attendance is expected. Unexcused absences will hinder the student's grade.
2. **Reading reports.** Students are expected to have read all of the required texts prior to the particular class. Students are expected to be prepared to discuss all reading assignments on the specific due dates. On the day that each reading is due, students will be asked to submit a reading report regarding the percentage of the reading completed. The reading reports will be averaged to determine the student's reading grade for the course. Students are expected to turn in the reading reports at the beginning of each class. Reports not submitted at the beginning of class will be considered late work (see section discussing Late Work). Reading reports are available to download from Ecampus.
3. **Chapel Attendance.** Seminary policy requires students enrolled in Personal Evangelism to attend 75% of chapel services during the semester. Attendance is recorded on the honor system. Students will complete a review of each chapel service they attend. This review will include five elements: date, speaker, sermon title and text, one paragraph applying the sermon to personal evangelism, and a rating (1—10, with 1 representing "very poor" and 10 representing "excellent").

Students who cannot attend the minimum number of chapel services required to meet this policy are expected to review the required number of services via DVD, the seminary website, Faith Channel 19, etc. When reviewing chapel services the student did not actually attend, a two page summary of the service will replace the one paragraph application. The summary should include the content of the message, its application, and personal interaction.

4. **Assessment Paper: (Due February 6).** Students are required to conduct a personal evangelism assessment and write a one page paper of their conclusions. This paper responds to the questions: “What is the present status of my life’s practice when it comes to sharing the gospel with individuals?” and “How intentional am I in regular personal evangelism?” This is an introspective paper. Students can address issues such as fears, limitations, the regularity of their personal evangelism, etc.
5. **Theology of Personal Evangelism Paper: (Due March 8).** During this semester, students are expected to develop and articulate their own theology of personal evangelism. Drawing from biblical texts, experiences, lectures, readings, etc., the paper must include two sections. The first section is a theology of the role of the messenger. The second section is a theology of conversion. Make certain that the paper addresses at least the role of the gospel, the preacher, the Holy Spirit, conversion, and the church in evangelism. The paper is to be 8-10 pages in length. Proper seminary style and form is to be followed.
6. **Apologetic Paper. (Due April 19).** Students are to prepare a 4-8 page paper responding to three to five contemporary excuses for not becoming a follower of Christ. Students should feel free to use this paper as an opportunity to think critically about matters of concern they have faced or anticipate facing in their witnessing. Examples of excuses include, but are not limited to: “Aren’t all religions equal?” “Doesn’t the Bible contain errors?” etc. Proper seminary style and form is to be followed.
7. **Personal Testimony Paper: (Due March 20).** Students will prepare a 2-3 page personal testimony paper. Guidelines for the paper will be addressed in class. Proper seminary style and form is to be followed.
8. **Personal Evangelism Reports.** The best way to learn how to share the gospel is to share it. This being a class in personal evangelism, it is only natural that we seek to practice what we study. Each student is urged during the semester to take advantage of opportunities to share his/her faith with others. Ten of these opportunities will be summarized on a Personal Evangelism Report. No more than two of these reports are to be done in a chat room or other quasi-personal medium. The report form will be posted at Ecampus. Five of these reports are to be submitted by **April 3** and the remaining five are to be submitted on the day of the final exam (**TBA**).
9. **Local Church Strategy Paper: (Due on the final exam day).** Students will prepare a 5 page strategy for how they will equip a local church in personal evangelism. The paper will be evaluated on how well the student responds to the following questions: 1) How will you lead your church to make certain that personal evangelism is understood as an expected part of being a follower of Christ; and 2) How will you practically equip your church in personal evangelism for the next twelve months? Be certain to include how you will teach the theology and methodology of personal evangelism.

10. **Midterm Examination: (Due March 27).** Each student will memorize the first 20 verses on the sheet “40 Key Verses for Evangelism.” Writing out these verse will comprise the mid-term exam. You may memorize from the English Bible translation of your choice, but you must specify on the exam which translation you have used.

11. **Final Examination: (Due TBA).** Each student will memorize the remaining 20 verses on the sheet “40 Key Verses for Evangelism.” Writing out these verses will comprise the final exam. You may memorize from the English Bible translation of your choice, but you must specify on the exam which translation you have used.

Extra Credit on Mid-Term and/or Final Exam:

Church Planting Conferences. The Church Planting Center is sponsoring three church planting conferences this semester.

Wednesday, February 21 – Cross Cultural Church Planting in North America, Dr. Van Sanders, Missiology Implimentation Manager, North American Mission Board

Must RSVP by 2/15

Friday, March 16 – Rural Church Planting, Steve Nerger, Strategic Places Team Manager, North American Mission Board

Must RSVP by 3/8

Wednesday, April 18 – Church Planting in Multihousing Communities, Bob Burton, Multi-housing and Urban Church Planting, North American Mission Board

Must RSVP by 4/12

The conferences are scheduled from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. Lunch is provided, but you must RSVP through the Church Planting Center, x4498 churchplanting@sbts.edu, by February 15. You must attend the *entire* conference to receive extra credit. Extra credit on the Mid-Term is only given for one conference. Extra credit on the Final is only given for one conference. For those students who attend the conference(s) in its entirety, one quality point will be added to their Mid-Term and/or Final Exam score. Therefore, if you scored a B (90%) on your exam, your grade will be raised to a B+ (92%).

EVALUATION/GRADING:

Reading	10%
Chapel Attendance	10%
Assessment Paper	5%
Theology of Personal Evangelism	15%
Apologetic Paper	10%
Personal Testimony	5%
Personal Evangelism Reports	15%
Local Church Strategy	10%
Midterm Examination	10%
Final Examination	10%
<hr/>	
Total	100%

The following is the grading scale used for this course:

A	98-100	C	83-80
A-	97-95	C-	79-77
B+	94-92	D+	76-75
B	91-89	D	74-73
B-	88-87	D-	72-70
C+	86-84	F	below 70

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, course objectives, general content, grading criteria, course requirements, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. The instructor, however, reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of the events and circumstances that change during the term.

LATE WORK: All assignments are due **in class** on the assigned dates. All late work will be penalized one quality point per day the assignment is late (this includes weekends). Assignments turned in after class, yet on the same day that they are due, will still be considered late work.

NOTE: In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

January 30	Overview and Introductions
February 1	The Privilege and Definition of Personal Evangelism
February 6	Misconceptions of Personal Evangelism Due: Assessment Paper Payne, “A Birmingham Billboard and a 3 AM Thought on Evangelism” located in the Article section of www.northamericanmissions.org
February 8	Personal Preparation for Personal Evangelism A Theology of the Messenger Beougher, <i>Overcoming Barriers</i>
February 13	The Barriers We Face Metzger, 1-22
February 15	New Testament Examples—Jesus New Testament Examples—Apostolic Church Coleman, <i>Master Plan</i>
February 20	A Theology of Conversion The Message We Share Packer, 1-17 Metzger, 23-52
February 22	“Personal Evangelism In Maryland/Delaware Area” David Jackson, Church Planting Director, Baptist Convention, Maryland-Delaware Packer, 18-36
February 27	Video: <i>The Gospel Blimp</i> Rainer, <i>The Unchurched Next Door</i>
March 1	The Role of Listening in Personal Evangelism David Hessegrave’s “Receptor-Oriented Communication Model” Metzger, 53-86
March 6	Sharing Your Story and Sharing it Well Packer, 37-91

- March 8 Beginning the Conversation
 “Share Jesus Without Fear”— FORM and FIRM
 “People Sharing Jesus”— The Five Questions
Due: A Theology of Personal Evangelism
- March 13 Making the Important Transition
 “Evangelism Explosion”—Diagnostic Questions
 “FAITH” question
Metzger, 87-111
- March 15 Evangelizing Children
- March 20 Guest Speaker, Gary Irby, Puget Sound Association
Due: Personal Testimony
- March 22 Training/Methods of Presenting the Gospel—
 Web Resources
Packer 92-End
- March 27 Due: Mid-Term Examination
- March 29 Dr. Ted Cabal, The Role of Apologetics in Personal Evangelism
 Metzger 112-138
- April 3 Training/Methods of Presenting the Gospel—
 The Way of the Master
Metzger, 139-147
- Due: First Five Personal Evangelism Reports**
- April 5 Training/Methods of Presenting the Gospel--
 Becoming a Contagious Christian
Metzger, 148-158
- April 10 Spring Reading Days
- April 12 Spring Reading Days
- April 17 Training/Methods of Presenting the Gospel--
 Just Walk Across the Room
- April 19 “Personal Evangelism in Eastern Canada”
 Gary Smith, Church Starting Coordinator for Eastern Canada,
 Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists
Due: Apologetic Paper

- April 24 Training/Methods of Presenting the Gospel--
Proper Use of Tracts
Metzger, 160-179
- April 26 Training/Methods of Presenting the Gospel—
Marked New Testament
Metzger, 180-207
- May 1 Equipping the Local Church in Personal Evangelism
Metzger, Appendix A, B
- May 3 Follow Up
Metzger, Appendix C, D
- May 8 or 10 **Final Exam??**
Due: Local Church Strategy
Due: Last Five Personal Evangelism Reports