

EVAN6351 Contemporary Trends in Growing an Evangelistic Church Internet - Spring 2011

Helpful Information

Office: Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health Phone: 504-816-8820

Office hours: 8AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday

Home Phone: 504-472-9021, Cell Phone: 504-234-4262

Email Address: bday@nobts.edu

VERY IMPORTANT: If a student communicates with the professor by email, note clearly in the subject line the course name and the purpose of the message. Due to junk email, if the purpose of the email is not clear, the message may be deleted without ever being read.

I. NOBTS Mission Statement:

The mission is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

II. NOBTS Core Values:

The seminary's core values are: (1) doctrinal integrity, (2) spiritual vitality, (3) mission focus, (4) characteristic excellence, and (5) servant leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity by using the Bible to help determine the characteristics of a healthy church. Characteristic excellence is a focus of this course because it deals with the most important characteristics required for a church to be healthy. Spiritual vitality is important to the course because it is believed that spiritually vital persons are a necessary part of a healthy church. The core value for NOBTS this year is **characteristic excellence**.

III. Key Competency

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Discipleship Making.

IV. Course Description

The purpose of this course is to identify the significant trends and changes affecting evangelism and church growth based on the historical backdrop and principles of the church growth movement. The course introduces students to the current literature and gives attention to the applications and implications of these trends for local church evangelism.

IV. Course Methodology

- A. Lectures. The lectures of the professor will be a resource material for the course. The lectures will be posted on Blackboard. Students are expected to download the lectures, study the contents, and use them in class assignments.
- B. Discussion. Students are expected to participate in online discussion using the Discussion Board section in Blackboard based on questions raised in the assigned reading and in the lectures.
- C. Individual work. Each student will be expected to read, conduct research, and engage in critical thinking and clear writing.

V. Course Objectives

- A. Students will be able to assemble a list of the top emerging issues in evangelism and church growth and defend their selection.
- B. Students will be able to thoroughly discuss the issues surrounding several emerging issues.
- C. Students will develop a broad base understanding of some of the emerging issues in evangelism and church growth.
- D. Students will be able to prepare an extensive bibliography of books and articles on the emerging issues studied in the seminar.
- E. Students will become familiar with topics which are foundational in church growth from which to build expertise in emerging issues.

VI. Course Requirements

A. READING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Each student will read the three required textbooks. The textbooks are:
 - a. Towns, Elmer; Ed Stetzer, and Warren Bird. *11 Innovations in the Local Church: How Today's Leaders Can Learn, Discern, and Move into the Future*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2007.
 - b. Hunter, George. *The Apostolic Congregation: Church Growth Reconceived for a New Generation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.
 - c. Dawson, Scott. *Evangelism Today: Effectively Sharing the Gospel in a Rapidly Changing World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.
2. Written Report: A 5-6 page (typed; double-spaced) critique:
Answer at least the following.
 - a. What was the author's primary purpose in writing this book?
 - b. A brief summary of the book.
 - c. Did the author accomplish his purpose?
 - d. What did you like about the book?
 - e. With what did you disagree or have questions about?
3. Due: **February 20, April 2, and April 23**

B. CHURCH RESEARCH PAPER:

1. A research paper dealing with a specific church related to a topic chosen in consultation with professor. Example: Topic: Youth evangelism. Church: A congregation with an exceptional number of youth baptisms.
2. Paper should develop the issue using the subject using the church as a source of information and discuss the implications to evangelism
3. Length: Approximately 20 pages with high quality writing demonstrating critical thinking skills.
4. Due: **May7**

C. TOPICAL PAPER: *Prepare a topical paper on an emerging issue in evangelism or church growth.*

1. Report on emerging issues in the field of evangelism or church growth
2. Topic selected from professor's list or other with the professor's approval
3. Length: 12-15 pages
4. Due: **March 19**

D. CLASS PARTICIPATION: Active participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. **Class participation counts for 25% of your final grade.** Comments related to lectures and materials posted on Blackboard, presentation of a student's cases, discussion of other student's cases, and response to the assigned readings are essential to class performance. Each student is expected to participate by posting at least once to each of the professor's posts and to one of the posts made by another student in the threaded discussions on Blackboard. **This means that a student should make at least four posts per week.**

VII. Course Evaluation

1. Book Reviews	25%
2. Church Research Paper	25%
3. Topical Paper	25%
4. Class Participation	25%

VIII. Blackboard:

ITC will enroll each student into Blackboard at the end of the registration period and after all fees have been paid.

Lecture notes, PowerPoint files, links to helpful web sites, etc. will be posted throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard on a regular basis.

Each week the professor will post detailed PowerPoint lectures on the subject of the week.

Possible Subjects for Topical Paper

Evangelism in a PostModern World
House Church Network
Family to Family Evangelism & Discipleship (equipping heads of households)
Electronic Church & Evangelism
Trends in Evangelizing Children
Trends in Evangelizing Youth
Trends in Evangelizing Senior Adults
The Dynamics of the Multi-congregational Church
Personal Evangelism w/ those with little religious background
Distinguishing Christian beliefs, practices and doctrine
Evangelizing the Dechurched (formerly churched)
Evangelizing the Uninterested and Hard to Reach
Uniqueness and Exclusivity of Christ in a Pluralistic America
Use of Cell and Small Groups in Evangelism
The Christian Message Among Conflicting Messages
Communication Barriers
Assimilation and Follow-up After Conversion
The Changing Role of Mass and Direct Marketing
Characteristics of Churches which Reach Lost People through Worship
Role of Church Planting in Reaching Unreached People Groups
Turning the Spiritually Interested into World-Changing Disciples
Changing Role of Revival Meetings
The Marriage of Ministry and Evangelism
Church Models for Evangelism and Disciple-Making
Evangelism in the Urban Setting
Evangelism in Rural Areas
Evangelism in Small Towns
Evangelism in the Suburbs
Evangelism at Colleges and Universities
Evangelism among Different Lifestyle Groups
Evangelism in Small Towns
Evangelism in Medium Size Churches
Evangelism in Large Churches
Evangelism in Mega-churches
Evangelism among the Poor
Evangelizing the Wealthy
Evangelism Involving Specific Racial or Ethnic Groups
Essentials of the Christian Message to Pre-Christian America
Pros and Cons of Worship Evangelism
Pros and Cons of Mega Church Over Time
Assimilation Difference in Relational and Non-Relational Evangelism
The Death of Churches
Pros and Cons of the Individualizing of the Discipleship
Family Friendly Churches
Natural Church Development as a Tool for Church Growth and Health

Challenges to Churches in an Ever-Changing Culture
Why Live the Christian Life - Why Become a Christian
Turning Natural Conversations to Spiritual Conversations
The New Questions of the Pre-Christians
The Use of Additional Services to Reach Additional People Groups
Pastoral Learning in an Increasingly Complex World
Planting Seeds in a Unseeded Fields
The Unknown God: The God People are Looking For
Identifying Evangelism and Growth Problems
Identifying the Major Approaches to Evangelism in the New Century
The Changing Roles of Members to Minister: the New Reformation
The Use of the Internet and Other Technologies in Evangelism
Power Evangelism Revisited: The Demonstration of the Supernatural
Demonic Strongholds and Deliverance in Evangelism and Discipleship
Gen X Church Models
Church Without Walls
Skills Needed to Share the Gospel in a Changing World
The Changing Gospel for a Unchanging World
Keys to Leading a Church to Close
Music and Worship as an Expression of One's Faith
Keys to Making Membership Meaningful
Tapping into Seniors for Ministry
Early reviews on the NET as an Evangelistic Tool
Reviews on FAITH as an Evangelistic Tool
The Pastor's Personal Participation in Highly Evangelistic Churches
Hindrances to Church Evangelism: Can Most Churches Have Ongoing Evangelism and Assimilation?
Major Competitors to the Christian Message and Task
Training Materials and Methods
Possible Futures for the Church of America
Confronting Nominal Christianity
Jesus as Person Worthy of Following
The Role of Pastoral and Apostolic Gifts in the 21st Century

Journals - Evangelism and Church Growth

Church Champions
Current Trends
Discipleship Journal
Evangelism
Growing Churches
Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education
Journal of The American Society for Church Growth
Leadership Journal
Ministries Today
NetFax
On Mission
World Evangelization

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