



# **EVAN5373 Reaching the Postmodern, Dechurched, and the Uninterested Internet Class**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Pastoral Ministry Division**

**Fall Semester, 2017**

Dr. Bill Day  
Office: Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health  
Office 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](mailto:bday@nobts.edu)

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

## **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom department.

**The core value focus for this academic year is servant leadership**

## **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

## Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. Biblical exposition: Students will discover passages of Scripture that will address the subject of evangelism in a postmodern world.
2. Theological and historical perspective: The course will provide a theological basis and a historical understanding of postmodernism.
3. Effective servant leadership: The course is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship and practice of servant leadership in evangelizing the lost.
4. Interpersonal relationships: The course emphasizes the importance interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of evangelism of the unchurched.
5. Disciple making: In this course, students will learn that evangelism in a postmodern world requires a continual strengthening of an individual's theological understanding and relational skills via discipleship.
6. Worship leadership: The relationship between the design of worship and reaching the unchurched is noted in the course.

## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to discover insights into the emerging challenges and opportunities for evangelistic Christian ministry in a pluralistic society. Students will explore cross-cultural methods and develop skills in communicating Jesus Christ with those who have been influenced by postmodernity and other popular worldviews. Interviews, surveys, Internet research, and role playing will be significant components in the learning process.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop an understanding of postmodernism and its relationship to evangelism.
2. Students will study the unchurched in contemporary culture.
3. Students will become familiar with significant literature related to postmodernism and the unchurched.
4. Students will learn how to lead their own church to better evangelize the unchurched.

## Course Teaching Methodology

In coordination with Blackboard lectures, reading assignments, and threaded discussions, students will enhance their skills in evangelizing the unchurched through three closely related ways:

1. Developing a comprehensive understanding of postmodernism and its relationship to evangelism.
2. Developing conceptual tools and frameworks that help make sense of the different types of unchurched peoples.
3. Analyzing and developing solutions to evangelizing the unchurched.

In addition to internet case/class interactions, students will have discussions with unchurched persons in their community.

## Textbooks

White, Heath. *Postmodernism 101: A First Course for the Curious Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Group, a Division of Baker Publishing Group, 2006.

Barna, George and David Kinnaman, Eds. *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014.

Stanley, Andy. *Going Deep & Wide: A Companion Guide for Churches and Leaders*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017. **NOTE:** This is a new book similar to a book by Stanley with a similar title.

Jones, Peyton. *Reaching the Unreached: Becoming Raiders of the Lost Art*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.

## Class Schedule

Guided by the course schedule with its due dates, students are expected to: (1) log on to Blackboard in order to: read and download the weekly materials and interact with the professor's questions and comments made by other students in the class via the class Discussion Board, (2) complete the assignments and submit reports to the professor by the assigned due date.

## Course Assignments:

### A. Reading Assignments:

1. Student will read the four required textbooks.
2. Written Report: A five 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?

Consult Blackboard for the book review format.

3. **Due Dates:** White - **Sept. 11**, Barna - **Oct 2**, Stanley - **Oct. 23**, and Jones -**Nov. 13**.

**B. Interview Paper:** Prepare a paper summarizing interviews with the Unchurched and the Dechurched proposing ways to better evangelize these types of persons based on the interviews.

- 1. Summarize interviews with four unchurched persons.
- 2. Suggest ways to better evangelize the Unchurched/Dechurched based on the interviews.
- 3. Length: 8-10 pages
- 4. Due: **Dec. 4**.

**C. Topical Paper:** Prepare a topical paper on a topic related to Evangelism and the Unchurched

- 1. Report on a topic related to evangelizing the Unchurched/Dechurched.
- 2. Topic selected with the professor's approval by **Sept. 11**.
- 3. Length: 12-15 pages
- 4. Due: **Dec. 13**.

**D. Class Participation:** Active participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. 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 two posts per week.**

### Course Evaluation

The requirements for the course and the contribution of each towards the final grade are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Book Reviews	20%
Unchurched Interview Paper	20%
Topical Paper	40%
Class Participation - Discussion Board	20%

### Course Policies

Students will be expected to have access to online resources to download course materials in the Seminary's Blackboard system.

Assignments will be emailed to the professor and grader using either Microsoft Word (.doc or docx) or WordPerfect (.doc or .docx) formats. An additional copy should be sent in pdf format.

Assignments are expected to be submitted by 12 midnight via email on the date indicated on the class schedule.

Exceptions to this schedule must be approved by the professor before the due date.

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

**Blackboard Enrollment:** Students will be enrolled in Blackboard by ITC.

### Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## Topical Paper - Possible Subjects

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

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