



**EVAN6351-01 Contemporary Trends in  
Growing an Evangelistic Church  
Internet Class  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Church Ministry Division  
Fall Semester, 2020**

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**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**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 missions focus.**

**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 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

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

In coordination with Blackboard lectures, reading assignments, and threaded discussions, students will enhance their knowledge and skills related to contemporary evangelism in the ways:

1. Weekly Materials. The weekly materials are to be accessed on Blackboard and interaction with professor and other students is expected.
2. Personal interaction. 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 weekly materials.
3. Individual work. Each student will be expected to read, conduct research, and engage in critical thinking and clear writing.

### **Textbooks**

1. Pate, Stephen and Gene Wilkes. *Evangelism Where You Live: Engaging Your Community*. Chalice Press, 2008.
2. Von Buseck, Craig. *Netcasters: Using the Internet to Make Fishers of Men*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2010.
3. Andrews, Edward D. *Conversational Evangelism*. Cambridge, OH: Christian Publishing House, 2015
4. Greer, Sam *The Gospel Conversational Church: Cultivating a Culture of Engaging in Gospel Conversations*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2019.

### **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 authors 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 Dates:** Pate and Wilkes - **Sept. 14**, Von Buseck – **Oct. 05** Andrews - **Oct. 26**, Greer –**Nov. 09**

#### **B. Interview Paper:**

1. Subject: A paper dealing with selected contemporary trends in evangelism.
2. Paper should report on conversations with pastors, professors, directors of missions, state and SBC leaders concerning their identification of current trends in evangelism and the impact these trends will have on the practice of evangelism in our churches and denomination. The professor can provide a list of the top evangelistic churches located near where a student lives for possible interviews.
3. Length: Approximately 10-12 pages.
4. Due: **Dec. 02, 2020**

#### **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: 15-20 pages.
4. Due date: **Dec. 09, 2020**.
5. Possible topics:

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

- 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	25%
Unchurched Interview Paper	25%
Topical Paper	25%
Class Participation - Discussion Board	25%

### 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 AThe 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.

### Course Schedule

1. **Weekly materials will be posted each week on Monday and discussion is required.**

2. **Book Report due dates:**

Aldrich, Joe. *Lifestyle Evangelism: Learning to Open Your Life to Those Around You*. **Due: Sept. 14**

Von Buseck, Craig. *Netcasters: Using the Internet to Make Fishers of Men*. **Due: Oct. 05**

Geisler, David and Norman Geisler. *Conversational Evangelism* **Due: Oct. 26**

Greer, Sam *The Gospel Conversationalist: Cultivating a Culture of Engaging in Gospel Conversations*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2019. **Due: Nov. 09**

3. **Interview Paper, Due: Dec. 02**

4. **Topical Paper, Due: Dec. 09**

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