



EVAN5373 REACHING THE POSTMODERN, DECHURCHED, AND UNINTERESTED (PDU)

FLEX: THURSDAYS 6:00-8:50pm.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Ministry, FALL 2023

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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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to discover insights into the emerging challenges preventing postmodernists, de-churched, and uninterested from engaging with evangelistic Christian Ministries. Students will analyze statistical data, engage in cross-cultural methods, and develop a strategic plan for communicating Jesus Christ with those influenced by postmodernism and other popular world views. A biblical, theological, and practical approach combined with extensive classroom engagement will aid in creating a strategy to be used by individuals, small groups, or parishioners churchwide. Interviews, surveys, and research will also be significant components of the learning process.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes are as follows:

1. Students will develop an understanding of postmodernism and its relationship to biblical evangelism.
2. Students will examine and analyze statistical data surrounding the unchurched in a postmodern culture.
3. Students will become familiar with significant literature related to postmodernism and the unchurched.
4. Students will develop a strategy for leading themselves and others in their ministry context to better evangelize the unchurched.

Required Reading

Poe, Harry Lee. *Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Kinnaman, David. *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church and Rethinking Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.

Stanley, Andy. *Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

White, James R. *Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. In class lectures/discussions
2. Multimedia Presentations
3. In person/Online engagement opportunities
4. Weekly Powerpoint Presentations

Course Requirements

All students are required to complete all assigned reading and attend all class sessions. Graded requirements for the course are as follows:

1. PDU Reading Quizzes (10%) Dates posted in syllabus schedule

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings. Periodic open-book quizzes (paralleling the reading) will post in Canvas on scheduled dates (see course schedule). Quizzes will be ten (10) true and false questions and must be completed by the corresponding Friday at 11:59pm.

2. PDU Interview (15%) Due Friday September 15th @ 11:59pm

Students will Prepare a 6 page paper summarizing interviews with the Unchurched/Dechurched. Students will propose ways to better evangelize these types of persons based on the interview responses. Each interview should contain:

- A. Personal/spiritual background of the interviewee.
- B. Theological perspective of God/Jesus/Church of the interviewee.
- C. Church/personal experiences of the interviewee
- D. Changes the interviewee would make to the church experience
- E. Students will offer suggestions for better ways to evangelize based on conducted interviews.

3. PDU Midterm Exam (25%) Due September 29th, 2022 @ 11:59pm

A Midterm Exam will be posted in Canvas and will reflect all readings, PowerPoint presentations, and in-class materials covered throughout the semester. Details about the Midterm will be discussed as the exam date nears.

4. PDU Book Analysis: (10%) Due Friday October 27th @11:59pm

Stanley, Andy. *Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

PDU Analysis must include:

- a. a synopsis of major themes of the book,
- b. a critical analysis of strengths and limitations of the book,
- c. and several principles (4-5) the student can derive for church revitalization.
- d. Each review is to be 4-5 pages, double-spaced, employing Turabian.

5. PDU Topical Paper (15%) Due November 17th@ 11:59pm

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. Topical paper will include:
 - a. Biblical Support
 - b. Statistical Data
 - c. Literary Resources
 - d. Personal perspectives
 - e. Relevance and Importance to PDU
3. Length of Topical Paper: 6-8 pages
4. Students will find topics to choose from listed below. Email Dr. Johnson at mjohnson@nobts.edu to receive topic approval.

6. PDU Final Exam (25%) Opens December 2, 2023 - Closes December 5th @ 11:59pm

A final exam will be posted in Canvas reflecting all readings, PowerPoint, and in-class material covered throughout the semester. Details about the exam will be discussed as the exam date nears.

1. PDU Reading Quizzes	See Schedule	10%
2. PDU Interview	September 15th @11:59pm	15%
3. PDU Midterm Exam	September 29th @11:59pm	25%
4. PDU Book Analysis:	October 27th 16th @11:59pm	10%
5. PDU Topical Paper	November 17th @ 11:59pm	15%
6. PDU Final Exam	December 5th@ 11:59pm	25%

Total 100%

Fall 2023 Semester Schedule

WEEK	DATE	UNIT	ASSIGNMENT	READINGS	THEME
Week 1	August 17th	Unit 1	Complete the Reading	H.L. Poe Intro - Ch. 3	Postmodern Defined
Week 2	August 24th	Unit 2	Complete the Reading	H.L. Poe Ch. 4&5	Postmodern Idealized
Week 3	August 31st	Unit 3	Reading Quiz H.L. Poe Chapters 1-5	H.L. Poe Ch. 6&7	Postmodern Realized
Week 4	September 7th	Unit 4	Complete the Reading	H.L. Poe Ch. 8&9	Postmodern 'Theolized'
Week 5	September 14th	Unit 5	PDU Interview September 15th @ 11:59pm	D. Kinnaman Intro - Ch. 2	Young and Restless
Week 6	September 21st	Unit 6	Complete the Reading/Midterm Review	D. Kinnaman Ch. 3&4	Young and Christless
Week 7	September 28th	Unit 7	Midterm Exam September 29th @ 11:59pm	D. Kinnaman Ch. 5&6	Young and Careless
Fall Break	October 5th		Relax/catch up on reading.		Fall Break
Week 8	October 12th	Unit 8	Complete the Reading	D. Kinnaman Ch. 7&8	Young and Reckless
Week 9	October 19th	Unit 9	Reading Quiz D. Kinnaman Ch. 1&8	D. Kinnaman Ch. 9&10	Young and Senseless
Week 10	October 26th	Unit 10	Book Analysis October 27th @ 11:59pm:	D. Kinnaman Ch. 11&12	Young and Hopeless

Week 11	November 2nd	Unit 11	Complete the Reading	J. White Intro - Ch. 3	Rise of the Nones
Week 12	November 9th	Unit 12	Complete the Reading	J. White Ch. 6&7	Rise of the Cons
Week 13	November 16th	Unit 13	PDU Topical Paper November 17 @ 11:59pm	J. White Ch. 8&10	Rise of the Beyonds
Thanksgiving Break	November 23rd		Enjoy Family and Friends		Thanksgiving Break
Week 14	November 30th	Final Exams Begin	-----	-----	-----
Finals	December 1 -7		Final Exam Opens December 1, 2023 and Closes December 5th @ 11:59pm		

Course Policies

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.

2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [**assignment by professor**] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to follow Turabian 8th edition. All written assignments must be Word documents or PDFs to insure the professor or teaching assistant can open the document, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard by the assigned time of the due date unless otherwise indicated. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2017-2018 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Late Assignments: Only under extreme circumstances, and with prior approval, will a late assignment be accepted. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 10 percent penalty and 1 percent for each day after the due date (i.e. 10/1 points for a 100 point assignment, 3/.3 points for a 30 point assignment). No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Missed presentations may not be made up.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Technical Assistance: For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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.

Canvas Enrollment: Students will be enrolled in Canvas by ITC.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

Correspondence with the Professor: Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any question you may have regarding this course.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

PDU 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 churchd)
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

Bibliography available upon request