

COS 523: Evangelism
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
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This course introduces students to the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God.

Students will be able to:

1. Reflect on and articulate the meaning of the Gospel and an understanding of the Church as bearers of God's Word to the world.
2. Ground a theology of evangelism in scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
3. Interpret of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
4. Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by the congregation.

A. Texts

Required

Hunter III, George G., *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again*, 10th Anniversary Revised and Expanded Edition. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1426711374. \$13.51.

Knight, Henry & F. Douglas Powe. *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2006. ISBN 978-0881774856. \$12.60.

Teasdale, Mark R. *Go! Becoming a Great Commission Congregation*. Nashville: Foundery Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0938162285. \$24.99.

Recommended

Logan, James C. *How Great a Flame! Contemporary Lessons from the Wesleyan Revival*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2005. ISBN 0-88177-472-3. \$5.99.

Jackson, Jack. *Offering Christ: John Wesley's Evangelistic Mission*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1501814228. \$39.99.

B. Assignments

Online Work

Congregational Culture Presentation

- Watch the video on Congregational Culture.
- Using Microsoft Power Point, Apple Keynote, the Google Drive “Presentation” app, or similar software, create a description of your church’s culture.
 - The presentation should include a title slide and six content slides, each corresponding to the slides in the video (spiritual, economic, historical, spatial and temporal, political, existential.). You do NOT have to answer every question on each slide in the video. You just need to present your church’s culture in relation to the broad topic on each slide.
 - Since your presentation is not narrated, make certain you include enough information on each slide so that those who do not know your church understand what you describe in your slides. You can use the notes on the slides to do this, provided that you leave the notes visible to me.

Demographic and Psychographic Presentation

- Watch the video on Demographics and Psychographics.
- Using Microsoft Power Point, Apple Keynote, the Google Drive “Presentation” app, or similar software, create a description of your church’s neighborhood and how it compares to your church.
 - The description should have a title slide and then have five content slides.
 - For the first two slides, refer to the websites in the lecture (esp. zipskinny.com and census.gov) and to your own church’s statistical forms to gather the appropriate data. Provide the information that is most helpful to learn about how your church and your neighborhood might view each other. For example, you might include on one slide the age/gender/race breakdown of your neighborhood compared to the same breakdown for your church. On the second slide you might show the wealth and education of your neighborhood compared to your church. It is up to you to pick the information that you think is most interesting to share about your neighborhood and your church.
 - For the next three slides, answer one of the following questions on each slide:
 - 1. What are people most proud of in your community?
 - 2. What are people most worried about in your community?
 - 3. Where do the people in your church most regularly mix with the people in your community on a regular basis?
 - Since your presentation is not narrated, make certain you include enough information on each slide so that those who do not know your church understand what you describe in your slides. You can use the notes on the slides to do this, provided that you leave the notes visible to me.

American Methodist History Lecture

- Watch the “US as Mission Field” lecture. This lecture offers additional information on Methodism in America beyond the text about Wesley. No written assignment necessary following this.

Pre-Class Reading and Papers Due: June 15, 2019

Read all required books. Select two (2) of the books—required or recommended—and write a critical book review on each according to the following format:

General Notes for Critical Book Reviews:

- 5 – 6 pages in length
- 12 pt. Times New Roman font; 1-inch margins
- Name in the upper left corner of page 1 followed by a double space
- Formal bibliographic entry centered on the top of page 1 (following your name/space)
For example:
Hunter, George G. *Radical Outreach: The Recovery of Apostolic Ministry & Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003.
- Footnotes should not be used when referring to the book being reviewed. Quotations or ideas taken directly from the text should be followed by parenthetical documentation giving the page number for the quotation/idea. For example, “Knight and Powe like Wesley” (64).

Introduction: 1/2 - 3/4 of 1 page

- The review should begin with a compelling introductory sentence to “hook” the reader.
- Introduce the book, the author (including biographical information such as education, training, experience). Note that the author may not still be at the same position as when the author wrote the book. Check the internet for an updated position.
- Introduce the book’s primary subject, aim, and scope.
- You may also include other matters germane to introducing the book

Summary: 1 – 1 1/4 page(s)

- First, understand that the purpose of the summary section in a critical book review is to *briefly* summarize the contents of the book.
- Illustrate the author’s argument – focusing on the overall thesis of the book. (Avoid critique in this section – leave that for the critical evaluation)
- Provide a succinct summary that shows a careful reading of the text and offers the reader a general overview of the book’s contents. Focus on the general outline of the text and the major points.

Critical Evaluation: 3 pages

- The primary purpose of the critical evaluation is to respond (both positively and negatively) to the book's content and the author's presentation.
- More depth than "This is a great book that should be required reading for all pastors" or "This book was lousy and is not worth reading" is required in this section.
- The following questions *may* be used to guide your evaluation:
 - What does the author hope to accomplish? Does she/he accomplish the purpose? If so, how? If not, why not?
 - Does the author approach the subject with any biases (theology, experience, philosophy, denomination, cultural perspectives) that influence her/his conclusions?
 - What are the strengths of the book? What contributions does the book make to the study of evangelism? What contributions does the book make for the practice of evangelism in your local church context? Why should someone read this book?
 - What are the weaknesses of the book? Does the author properly support her/his thesis? Does the author fairly/adequately consider other viewpoints? Is the book relevant to your context?
- Be specific in your evaluations and arguments. Demonstrate the strength/validity of your argument with concrete examples, clear logic, and good reasoning.

Conclusion: 1/2 - 3/4 of 1 page

- Now you may utilize the 1st person as you offer an overall evaluation of this text.
- Would you recommend the book to other pastors and/or lay people? Why? Why not?
- What did you learn from this book? What applications may it have in your ministry?

Class Presentation

A primary goal of this course is to teach you to assess your local congregation's evangelistic ministries. As a result, during class you will have to prepare an approximately 20 minute (subject to change depending on the number of people in the course) presentation which will include:

1. Your own conceptualization of evangelism.
2. An overview of your own congregation.
3. A SWOT analysis of how your own congregation based on the ideas you put forward in your first two sections.

The course will cover all the items needed in the presentation, and you will have one-on-one time to meet with the professor to go over the presentation before giving it.

C. Grading – the below forms will be used for grading your final presentation and to tabulate your final grade, respectively.

Final Presentation Grade Form

Description	Max. Points	Points Awarded
Introduction of Local Congregation	25	
Conceptualization of Evangelism	25	
SWOT Analysis of the Local Congregation	30	
Clarity of Presentation	10	
Cogency of Presentation	10	
Total	100	

Final Grade Form

Description	Max. Points	Points Awarded
Online Work	100 x 10%	
Class Participation	100 x 20%	
Pre-Class Papers	100 x 20%	
Presentation	100 x 50%	
Total	100	