

COS 523: Evangelism

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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

Arias, Mortimer. *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-157910563. \$21.00 (Amazon price).

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

Teasdale, Mark R. *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0830851669. \$20.00 (Amazon price).

B. Structure of Course

This course is taught in a hybrid model, with half your time spent learning asynchronously using course material provided to you by the instructor and the other half spent synchronously through live participation in webinars taught by the instructor.

Asynchronous (Addresses learning goals 3 and 4)

The Asynchronous part of the course will include watching videos uploaded by the instructor. These videos will focus on the history, development, and practice of evangelism among Methodists, beginning with John Wesley. They will also offer practical insights into how pastors can best understand their congregational context for ministry today.

The asynchronous assignments will all be due by March 26.

Synchronous (Addresses learning goals 1, 2, and 4)

The synchronous part of the course will involve participating in six live webinars. These webinars involve lecture, small group discussion, and plenary discussion. All six webinars will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6 – 7:30 p.m. (Central Time).

The dates of the webinars are Feb. 3, 10, 24, and March 3, 10, 17, 24.

The webinars will use the Teasdale text as a framework to help you personally articulate the gospel in a way that is authentic to your experience of God’s work in your life, faithful to the teachings of the Christian tradition, and meaningful to the context in which you minister. It will further help you to develop and lead evangelistic strategies for your congregation.

You will receive a follow up email after you register for the course on how to log into the webinars.

The final webinar will be provide COS students an opportunity to meet with each other and the instructor to discuss the “evangelism equation” they have developed and to share how they will implement the evangelistic strategies in their congregations.

C. Assignments

Reading and Book Reviews

Read the Arias and Knight and Powe books. (You will read the Teasdale book during the Synchronous sessions.) 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?

Expected amount of time to complete these assignments: 8 hours (2 hours to read each book + 2 hours to write each paper).

Videos and Video Review Paper

There are seven videos you will watch. After each video, you will complete a brief paper to demonstrate comprehension of the material covered. On the paper you will answer three questions:

- What was new or surprising information I learned from this video?
- What was unclear or what would I like to learn more about from this video?
- What can I use in my ministry from this video?

Webinar Reading and Study Guide

Throughout the synchronous portion of the course, you will be assigned portions of the Teasdale text to read for each week. You will also have a Study Guide that tracks with the material covered in each week's webinar session. You are required to complete the reading and the Study Guide throughout the six weeks of the webinars.

Expected amount of time to complete these assignments: 4 hours (2 hours to read the book + 2 hours to complete the Study Guide).

D. Course Schedule

Synchronous Classes			
Students must participate in these sessions.			
Week	Theme for the Week	Reading – do before assignment	Assignment
1 2/3/21	Defining Evangelism	None	Complete Pre-Session section of the Study Guide after the webinar.
2 2/10/21	Articulating Our Staring Point	Teasdale, intro, chs. 1, 2	Complete Session 1 of the Study Guide after the webinar.
3 2/24/21	Theological Reflection	Teasdale, ch. 3	Complete Session 2 of the Study Guide after the webinar.
4 3/3/21	Being Aware of Context	Teasdale, ch. 4	Complete Session 3 of the Study Guide after the webinar.
5 3/10/21	Creative Evangelistic Practices	Teasdale, ch. 5	Complete Session 4 of the Study Guide after the webinar.
6 3/17/21	Developing a Congregational Strategy	Teasdale, ch. 6	Complete Session 5 of the Study Guide after the webinar.
7 3/24/21	Synthesizing and Sharing Strategies with other Students	N/A	Come to this session prepared to share the “Evangelism Equation” you developed in class and how you are going to implement your evangelistic strategy.

Asynchronous Material

Students complete this at their own pace by the deadline.

Course Material to Review	Assignments
Readings: Arias book, Knight and Powe Book	Book Review Papers Due by March 26, 2021
Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why Study Evangelism? An Overview of the Study of Evangelism https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpHjonyGPZo• John Wesley: How his own quest for peace with God led to the development of Methodist evangelism https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_mkVDwPciM• The Structure of the Methodist Revival and its lessons for Methodist evangelism today. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3srMUViqrCU• The United States as a Mission Field (3 videos) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t8tm2VmuSA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQpYEAUzvbk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu1I-bVkvuQ• Becoming a Great Commission Congregation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKjSMM9rL5c	Video Review Papers Due by March 26, 2021

E. Grading

Your grade will be calculated based on the following structure:

Description	Percentage of Final Grade	Points Awarded
Book Review #1	10%	
Book Review #2	10%	
Video Papers	20%	
Participation in All Synchronous Sessions	40%	
Study Guide	20%	
Total	100	