Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

ME 6000 Evangelism in a Post-Modern, Post-Christian, Post-Secular, Post-Ironic, Post-Everything Age
3 semester hours
Wrap-Around Course in conjunction with Xenos Summer Institute
July 9-12, 2014

Professor
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
The Scriptures admonish us (1 Cor 9:19-22) and provide models for us (Acts 13,14, 17) to adapt our methods of evangelism to our culture and audience without compromising the integrity and truth of the gospel. Our current social context presents the church with new and complex challenges as we seek to proclaim the gospel in effective and compelling ways. This course seeks to analyze current trends in light of the evangelistic opportunities before us and attempts to formulate outreach strategies that will bear fruit.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The course is designed to equip pastors, missionaries, and other Christian workers to 1) think critically about the nature of the gospel and the changing nature of evangelism, 2) do the work of an evangelist and 3) help others do the same. The course emphasizes practical application and transferability. As a result of this course, students will:
- grow in knowledge of philosophies of evangelism, theological foundations for evangelism, and practical considerations for effectiveness in our contemporary world.
- gain flexibility in formulating evangelistic strategies to fit their missional context.
- be encouraged to trust God to use them in proclaiming the gospel to lost people for the rest of their lives.
- engage in numerous evangelism experiences, evaluate their abilities, and plan for future development.

COURSE FORMAT
This course will be taught as a wrap-around course in conjunction with the 2014 Xenos Summer Institute (XSI). The student will attend the XSI, as well as special workshops and class sessions specifically for TEDS students enrolled in ME6000 (see schedule below). Class sessions will include a significant amount of student-teacher interaction, group discussion, and reporting on student assignments.

PRE-COURSE READING AND ASSIGNMENTS
1. Read all of the following before July 9, 2014 (Be prepared to fill out a reading report of the percentage of pages read on the first day of class).

Books


Article


2. Listen to this audio before July 9, 2014:

“The Supremacy of Christ and the Gospel in a Postmodern World” by Timothy Keller

3. Be prepared to hand in three reading evaluations on July 9, 2014 at 4:30 pm

Write a brief evaluation (500-700 words, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 point Times New Roman font) of the books by Dallas and Heche, Follis and Newman. Be sure to include: 1) The thesis of the book, 2) What you learned from the book, 3) What you disagree with, 4) What you liked about the book, 5) How you might use it in your ministry). These will serve as talking points in your participation in your small group discussions.

4. Pre-evangelistic Conversations

Begin conversations with three non-Christians before the class begins. Find out what they believe about God, the afterlife, and Jesus. Try to discern what objections they have to the gospel message. Ask them if you can continue the conversation after July 12th.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>4:30 – 6:30</td>
<td>Course introduction: A Changing Culture and an Unchanging Gospel</td>
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POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Interaction Paper

Formulate your own philosophy of evangelism, based on your evaluations of all the readings (especially Keller), evangelism experiences, and personal reflection. Include your convictions about the gospel message, how it should be communicated in your current (or future) ministry context, and how you anticipate training Christians to engage in evangelistic activities. This paper is to be 1500-1800 words (double-space, 1” margins, 12 point Times New Roman font).

2. Evangelism Journal

As a part this course, you will initiate three evangelistic relationships with non-believers. You will have at least one conversation with each of the three people before July 9th and at least one more conversation with each of the same people after July 12th. All interactions must be face to face (not on the telephone, via email, Facebook, etc. You can use the telephone and email to augment your face-to-face conversations). At some point, you should try to communicate the gospel message to each of the three people. Write a journal entry for each conversation with each person. (You should have a minimum of six entries when completed) reporting on the date, location, and length of time of conversation. Summarize what you learned about their worldview, religious experiences, and response to the gospel. Evaluate your own evangelism skill, what you learned about yourself and offer ways you need to improve and grow in your ability to communicate the gospel clearly and compellingly. Each journal entry must be at least 300 words. Include a 500-600 word summary of your entire journal, summarizing the various experiences and evaluating what you learned along the way.

Both the Interaction Paper and the Evangelism Journal are due by 5 pm on August 15th, sent by email to randydavidnewman@gmail.com.
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Written Reading Evaluations</td>
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<td>Interaction Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evangelism Journal</td>
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Helpful literature:

Lewis, C.S. *The Abolition of Man.* Macmillan, 1944.


