GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
EV 683: SMALL GROUP EVANGELISM
Spring Term, 2009
TUESDAY, 1:15-4:15 pm

Lead Professor: Samuel R. Schutz
Office: Goddard Library, Room #123
Tel.: Office, 978/646-4096; Cell, 978-406-1321; E-mail, samschutz@gmail.com
Office Hours: Mon., 4:30-5:30pm; Tues., 11:45am-12:45pm; Wed., 10:45am-1:45pm
[except Reading Weeks & the Week of November 20]. Sign-up sheet is on office door. OR by appointment.
Byington Scholar: David Patterson, 978-352-7976 OR 773-352-7976, david.e.patterson@gmail.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The intention of this course is that the student will:
1. Develop the skills necessary both to do small group evangelism and to train others to do so.
2. Plan, execute, and analyze an actual small group outreach session.
3. Understand and experience the small group process.
4. Understand the processes of designing small group outreach programs and of designing and using small group materials for outreach.
5. Develop an understanding of how small groups can be used in the church.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading

A. **Required Reading:** Please complete the following books by the due dates indicated in parenthesis below. Turn in your **Reading/Project Report** (attached) to my office, Library #123, **no later** than **Monday, May 4, 4:00pm**. **[Graduating Seniors, Friday, April 24, 4:00 pm]** -- 15% of final grade.


B. **Recommended Reading:**

Alpha Video Series (available from GCTS library) – Community evangelism through winsome proclamation in a group setting, from Holy Trinity Church (Anglican), Brompton, England. Now used widely in the US and around the world. Presenter is Rev. Nicky Gumbel of the church staff. You may receive credit in EV 683 equivalent to 50 pages per hour for viewing the video.
A. Small Group Participation – 35% of final grade

During a significant part of the class, you will learn about small group process by experiencing your own small group and then reflecting about your experiences together. Handouts will be given during class to facilitate this personal reflection and small group interaction.

B. “Glad You Asked! Introducing Good News to a Group that Inquires” (Due March 10) – 10% of final grade

Write a two or three page presentation (typed, single spaced, double spacing between paragraphs) in which you explain clearly what it means to be a follower of Jesus – (1) who Jesus is, (2) what He has done, and (3) how to know God personally through Jesus, and (4) what it means to be an authentic disciple (follower) of Jesus. Avoid clichés and technical jargon. Make this your own fresh attempt at communication of the gospel. You may share your own story as you creatively unfold God’s story. You must receive a grade of at least a “B” on this assignment in order to pass the class.

C. Planning for Your Outreach Event (Due March 17) – 10% of final grade

Submit your Outreach-Event Plan (1-3 pages, single spaced) Guidance will be given in class for this work.

D. Written Report on Your Outreach Event (Due April 7) – 10% of final grade

Conduct your actual outreach event, and then:

1. Write and submit a two to three page paper (typed, single spaced), detailing your feelings and thoughts about your outreach event. Address the following questions:
   a. How would you rate the outreach event in terms of (1) interest level, and (2) communication?
   b. Describe the atmosphere of the gathering.
   c. How did you feel personally (1) before the meeting, (2) during the meeting, and (3) after the meeting?
   d. What were the best parts of the meeting?
   e. What parts did not go so well?
   f. What can be done to improve next time?
   g. What lessons did you learn personally?

2. Write and submit a paragraph or more (typed, single spaced) of self-evaluation on the role you played in planning and executing the outreach meeting. Rate yourself on a scale of A to F.

3. Give an oral report of your outreach event to the class. Please prepare a 1+ page handout to facilitate your presentation (copy for every one in the class). Schedule for presentations will be given in class.

E. Design an Innovative Small Group Outreach Series (Due Monday, May 4, 4:00 in my office) – 20% of final grade

[Graduating Seniors, Friday, April 24, 4:00 pm]

Following the directions given in class write a series of at least three outreach events, along with interactive exercises, designed to share the gospel with a particular target group. Develop your own materials, i.e., don’t copy exercises taken from a book or elsewhere. Choose your medium to facilitate the exercises. The criteria used to evaluate this work will include: creativity, viability of approach, and thoroughness in planning.
Class Attendance and Participation. Regular attendance, being in class on time, and class participation will weigh heavily in determining your final course grade.

All grading, including final course grade, is based upon the grading scale given in the seminary Catalog: A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0.

Be sure to make a copy of the papers you turn in. Papers can get lost so never submit your only copy. Your end-of-term work [Reading/Project Report; Small Group Outreach Series] is to be handed in to my office, Library #123, no later than Monday, May 4 [Graduating Seniors, Friday, April 24, 4:00 pm]. Please leave them in the box provided outside my office rather than the campus post office. Your end-of-term work must be in an envelope with your name on the outside [no covers or notebooks, please]. Please do not clasp or seal the envelope! I will return your work in the same envelope. If you do not have a campus post office box, or you would prefer that I mail your work to your home, it will be necessary for you to provide self-addressed envelope(s) with correct postage. All work submitted without an envelope will be discarded.

### CLASS SCHEDULE
(subject to change)

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<tr>
<th>Week:</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Due:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 2-3</td>
<td>Introduction to Course/Biblical Basis of Small Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 2-10</td>
<td>Biblical Basis of Small Groups. The Training Process. Small Group Evangelism Exercise</td>
<td>Read Jacks</td>
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<td><strong>FEB. 17 – READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</strong></td>
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<td>3. 2-24</td>
<td>Preparation for Outreach. Small Group Evangelism Exercise</td>
<td>Read Arnold</td>
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<td>4. 3-3</td>
<td>Planning Outreach I Small Group Evangelism Exercise</td>
<td>Read Hunter</td>
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<td>5. 3-10</td>
<td>Planning Outreach II Small Group Evangelism Exercise</td>
<td>“Glad You Asked! Introducing Good News to a Group that Inquires”</td>
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<td>6. 3-17</td>
<td>The Interactions of a Small Group I Small Group Evangelism Exercise</td>
<td>Planning for Your Outreach Event</td>
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<td><strong>MARCH 24 – READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</strong></td>
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<td>7. 3-31</td>
<td>The Interactions of a Small Group II Small Group Exercise</td>
<td>Read Myers</td>
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<td>8. 4-7</td>
<td>Outreach Group Evaluation.</td>
<td>Written Report on Your Outreach Event. Oral Reports: include 1+ p. handout</td>
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<td>9. 4-14</td>
<td>The Use of Small Groups in Churches Oral Reports</td>
<td>Oral Reports: include 1+ p. handout.</td>
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<td>Course Evaluation</td>
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READING/PROJECT REPORT
EV 683 Small Group Evangelism

**Required Reading:**
1. Jacks, Your Home a Lighthouse (154 pp.) _____________
2. Arhold, Small Group Outreach (138pp.) _____________
3. Hunter, How to Reach Secular People (171 pp.) _____________
4. Myers, The Search to Belong (154 pp.) _____________

**Extra Credit:**
**Additional Required Reading** (350 pp. or more)
4. _____________
5. _____________
6. _____________
7. _____________
8. _____________
9. _____________

**TOTAL # OF PAGES READ:** __________

**Class Attendance & Participation**
1. How many classes did you miss? __________
   How many class sessions were you late (5+ minutes) __________
   Explanation (if appropriate):

2. Rate your level of active participation in the class as a whole on a scale from 1 to 5 (1=low) _______

**Small Group Exercises**
Rate your own level of active participation on a scale from 1 to 5 (1=low)

Rating of Myself: 1 2 3 4 5

Explanation:

**Outreach Event**
Check the most accurate description of the manner in which you participated with your small group in preparing for the event:

( ) Very Active    ( ) Active    ( ) Fairly Active    ( ) Not Too Active    ( ) Inactive