Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Jacksonville
EV 510 - Evangelism: Theories and Practice
June 21-22; July 26-27; August 23-24, 2013
6:30pm-9:30pm on Fridays; 8:30am-4:30pm on Saturdays
Wayne Goodwin, Ph.D. - Professor

Course Description

The Christian church is charged with the task of telling forth the gospel message. The aim of evangelism courses is to equip students to do the work of evangelism and to train others to be successful witnesses. An in-depth consideration of the unchanging gospel message is coupled with an examination of the variety of methods to present the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This course is a study of the theoretical, biblical, and philosophical foundations of evangelism. Topics include the nature and transmission of the gospel, individual and group evangelism, worship and evangelism, contextual evangelism, tolerance-intolerance continuum, and evangelism and social responsibility.

Course Relationship to the Curriculum

The course is a degree requirement for all degrees offered on the Jacksonville campus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Course Objectives

Students will:

1. Discuss and develop a biblical, theoretical, theological perspective for evangelism-missions. This includes the nature of God, his call upon Christians, view of human nature, among other categories.
2. Review several potential strategies and methods for accomplishing the task of evangelism-missions.
3. Develop a comprehensive, specific strategy/plan for evangelism which corresponds with the students’ vocational objectives.
4. Develop and institute a practical and effective program of evangelism.
5. Interact with other theology students to consider the potential avenues of evangelism in the 21st century.

Class Dates and Times

Students will meet for three intensive weekends over three months –June 21-22, July 26-27, and August 23-24, 2013 at the seminary campus. Students and auditors are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in all phases of the course. All materials are due to the professor no later than 5:00pm (postmarked), Saturday, September 28, 2013.
Course Requirements

Course Textbooks - required reading

1. Pippert, R. Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World, InterVarsity Press, 1999. This is the primary text for the course and will be the source of much of the discussion. This particular book was voted in 2006 as one of the top fifty books that have shaped evangelism.


Course Textbooks - choose one for the following:


7. Mittelberg, M. Building a Contagious Church..., Zondervan, 2002

As of the date on the syllabus, all of the books listed above were available at Amazon.com. Please check with the Gordon-Conwell bookstore, as well. **Note:** Some of the books are available on e-books at Amazon.com.

Course Preparation

This course will utilize a seminar-style model. This means that students will be prepared to offer creative, focused, and sustained input into the dialog and discussion. It is expected and required that all students interact on an intensive, open, and charitable level of discussion.

Course Grades

The final grade is based on three critical aspects of the course: (1) the development of a comprehensive plan for evangelism, which includes theological rationales, view of human nature, and a workable plan for doing the task of evangelism relevant to the students vocational
calling – approximately 15-20 pages, using the Turabian style format (40% of the grade); (2) an actual testing of at least one significant part of the plan in the practice of ministry with a 5-page report (40% of the grade); (3) Letters to the authors of the at least three books (20%). (See below for instructions). Significant involvement in the classroom experience and the completion of all requirements of the course will be considered as part of the final grade, especially for persons on the border line between two grades.

It is expected that students will spend approximately 120 hours to satisfy the requirements of the course – 30 hours in class, 45 hours of reading, and 45 hours preparing the comprehensive plan and instituting the plan in a ministry setting.

All materials must be submitted no later than 5:00pm (postmarked), Saturday, September 28, 2013.

Letters to the Authors

Students will write three letters to the authors (one letter to each author) regarding issues and concepts identified in their books. The letters should indicate appreciation/non-appreciation, strengths/weaknesses, questions/concerns, among other communication – 3-5 pages, single-spaced, typed/printed (20% of the course grade).

Letters are an opportunity to expand your knowledge by verbalizing (in writing) your thoughts, your ideas, your questions, your confirmations, and your experiences. Use personal pronouns, i.e., make it personal. Include references to your readings, research, class presentations, and personal reflections. This is not a journal or diary or “blowing off steam”. Therefore, avoid words such as “should”, “must”, “ought”, “the truth is”, “in reality”, “all people”, “people say”, “you know” or other moral imperatives that sound demanding, demeaning, or “preachy”. Also, avoid generalizations. Be specific. Write for your own learning.

Class Schedule

The topics for presentation, dialog, and discussion include: biblical and theological foundations for evangelism-missions, the nature of evangelism, human nature, the work of evangelism, the context for evangelism, methods of evangelism, techniques of evangelism, pluralism vs. intolerance, globalism and multi-culturalism, types of evangelism (mass, personal, preaching-worship,) evangelism vs. social ministry, follow up/discipleship, among other topics.

An outline of the presentations and discussion items will be distributed during the first weekend of the course.
Course Administration

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all sessions is required. Lack of attendance will be utilized to determine final grades on the borderline between two grades. See the Academic Catalog for Seminary requirements related to attendance.

Due Dates and Late Penalties

All course work is due on or before the date listed in this syllabus and in the Academic Catalog. Normally, students have one month following the final class session to submit all materials for the class unless requested earlier by the professor in the syllabus. Any extensions beyond the time-line determined by the Registrar must be approved by the Registrar who will consult with the professor on any extensions.

Course Assistance

Students may contact the professor by the following means:

1. E-mail - wgoodwin3@comcast.net. This is the most efficient way to get immediate response and feedback. Attach any documents in either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect.

2. Postal letters or memoranda addressed to:
   Wayne Goodwin
   363 Willow Winds Parkway
   St. Johns, FL

3. Phone: 904-342-5277 (home; includes an answering machine).

4. Student conferences by appointment at the Gordon-Conwell offices.

Wayne Goodwin, Ph.D.
Summer, 2013