

EV701, Evangelism and Discipleship. Dr. Scott W. Sunquist

DESCRIPTION

This course will give the student an opportunity to understand evangelism as an essential element in the Christian life. Christians are called to Christ and then sent by Christ to bring the Good News in various contexts. In particular, this class will focus on the content of the Gospel, how the Gospel is to be presented, and how it is Good News in various contexts. Thus, we will look at how Jesus presented the message of peace and reconciliation to different people in his ministry, and then we will look at how our different cultural and social contexts shape the message of evangelism and discipleship. By the end of the course the student will be able to identify particular elements of a local context and share the Good News of Christ in appropriate ways. The role of Scripture, listening, and ongoing conversation and relationships will be emphasized

RELATIONSHIP TO GORDON-CONWELL'S MISSION

This course serves as six of the Gordon-Conwell institutional learning objectives:

- To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation, and application in the contemporary world. [Article 1]
- To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical, and theological disciplines. [Article 2]
- To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the Church, to become skilled in ministry. [Article 3]
- To work with the churches towards the maturing of students so that their experiential knowledge of God in Christ is evidenced in their character, outlook, conduct, relationships, and involvement in society. [Article 4]
- To provide leadership and educational resources for shaping an effective evangelical presence in Church and society. [Article 5]
- To develop in students a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism, and discipleship. [Article 6]

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a constructive biblical critique of the debate among Evangelical scholars on how best to understand and communicate the biblical gospel, based on reading some of the best current representative works in the field of evangelism and discipleship.

2. Articulate a theology of evangelism and discipleship that is faithful to Scripture in content and consistent with our larger historical Evangelical heritage across the centuries.
3. Communicate the Gospel in language that is unambiguously clear to a particular (identified) audience, without religious jargon, and in a personal and vulnerable manner.
4. Explain and give examples of how important it is to understand the cultural and social context of evangelism and discipleship.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

1. Reading and Reading Reports (Summary and Critique) (two reports; 15% of grade each). [Related to Outcomes 1 and 2]
2. Theological Summaries of Videos (two summaries; 10% of grade each). [Related to Outcomes 2 and 3]
3. Final Paper: My Theology and Practice of Evangelism (50 % of final grade). [Related to Outcomes 2, 3 and 4]

COURSE FORMAT

This January intensive **Digital Live** course will be conducted **online** and from the **Jacksonville campus** with a schedule aligned with Gordon-Conwell's academic calendar. Students may choose to attend online or on campus. The course begins on the first day of semester, with some work due before we meet for the intensive. Course materials and assignments will be in Canvas. The class meets Jan 16th-20th Tuesday-Friday 6:00-9:00 PM and Sat. 9:00-4:00 PM. Students should plan to interact with the material, each other, and the instructor through online and class session discussions, reading, and other assignments that promote active learning.

AUDITORS

Auditors must attend all classes and read at least 300 pages (honor system). We expect auditors to participate in the discussions.

REQUIRED READING

Total number of pages required: 1,348

Everts, Don and Doug Schaupp. *I Once was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us about Their Path to Jesus*. IVP, 2008. [134 pp.] ISBN: 978-0830836086.

Everts, Don, Doug Schaupp and Val Gordon, *Breaking the Huddle: How your community can grow its witness*. Downers Grove, IL: 2016. [200 pages]

Green, Michael. *Evangelism: Learning from the Past*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2023. [159 pages] ISBN: 978-0-8028-8343-8

Kreider, Alan. *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016 [321 pages]
ISBN: 978-0-8010-4949-4

Robinson, Natasha Sistrunk. *Mentor for Life: Finding Purpose through Intentional Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016. [272 pages] ASIN: B010R755VO

Sunquist, Scott W. *Understanding Christian Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013. [Chapters 7 and 10] ASIN: B00EVS30E

Osmer, Richard R. *The Invitation: A Theology of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021. (Pages 1-131)

“I am Second” videos: <https://www.iamsecond.com/film/>

*ECDs are intended as guides for course design; though reliable, they are subject to modification.
Most recent update: October 2023*