



EV 501 Personal and Corporate Outreach Fall 2006

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Class time and location:

Thursday - 13h00 – 15h45

Classroom - 517

1. Course Description

This course seeks to integrate evangelism and evangelistic practice with the purpose of developing a wholesome biblical lifestyle conducive to personal and community outreach. Participants will be encouraged to improve their effectiveness in personal communication of the Gospel. Skills and techniques will be learned to enhance the participant's style of communicating the Gospel. Principles and approaches for developing disciples will be explored in an effort to help new believers as they are incorporated into a local fellowship.

2. Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- At the completion of this course the student will:

- 2.1** Understand the biblical/theological foundations of evangelism
- 2.2** Be familiar with relevant and current literature on evangelism
- 2.3** Understand and have experienced how to make disciples effectively in a variety of contexts and as a way of life
- 2.4** Understand the role of the individual, the local church and the church leader in evangelistic efforts
- 2.5** Have examined opportunities for outreach in the current Canadian context, with a specific look at postmodernity.
- 2.6** Have grown in their ability to bear witness to the gospel and to lead the church in its mission.

3. Course Texts

3.1 Required texts:

- Bowen, John. *Evangelism for "Normal" People*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002. (210 pages)
- Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Westwood: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1963. (125 pages)
- McLaren, Brian. *More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. (188 pages)
- Mittelberg, Mark. *Building a Contagious Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (388 pages)

3.2 Recommended texts:

- Burke, John. No Perfect People Allowed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Ford, Leighton. The Power of Story. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1994.

4. Course Requirements

4.1 Reading and class participation – 5%

- The course texts have been chosen carefully. It is my attempt to expose you to some key writers and concepts in the area of outreach/evangelism today. All four required texts are to be read and will be discussed in class. As well, specific readings may be assigned from the recommended texts. Dates for class discussion of the texts will be announced in class.
- Interaction and discussion of the selected course topics during class time is expected and encouraged, and will impact the final grade.

4.2 Reading reports – 20% (5% each)

- You will hand in 4 reading reports: **one on each of the 4 required texts**. These reports will be **1 page long** and will contain three selections of the best ideas, thoughts, concepts or principles from the book. That is, what grabbed your attention and made you think; “Now that is important for me to remember!”
 - The Master Plan of Evangelism – **Due September 14th**
 - Evangelism for Normal People – **Due October 5th**
 - More Ready Than You Realize – **Due October 19th**
 - Building a Contagious Church – **Due November 16th**

4.3 Evangelism and Scripture paper – Due September 21st - 15%

- As well as exposing you to some contemporary writings, I want to also focus on what we can learn about evangelism from key NT passages. To further your thinking and help build a scriptural foundation about evangelism, you will write a **3-4 page** paper on a NT passage of scripture of your choosing either from the life and teachings of Jesus, the disciples in the book of Acts, or the apostle Paul. A list of potential passages will be distributed in class.
- In this paper you will discuss the passage from the perspective of, “What do I learn about evangelism from.....and how can I apply it to my life and future ministry”.

4.4 Personal story assignment – Due October 12th - 10%

- We live in a culture that loves a good story. Combining a personal story with God’s story can be a powerful thing since true evangelism has an authentic message. We must always speak what we know and have experienced. Prepare a **2-3 page** personal story reflecting on: In what way has Jesus been good news in your life? In other words, share your story of why you think Jesus is good news. What is it about God that keeps you hanging in as a Christian despite all the hassles? When some are giving up on the church as bad news, what is the good news about the church that makes a difference in your life? This should be written for the ears of a non-believer you know. These personal stories will be shared in class on the day they are due for the encouragement and insight of everyone.

4.5 Church Leader Interview – Due November 2nd - 10%

- You will interview one of the pastors or church leaders from the church you attend here in Calgary. It could be the lead pastor, or someone who works in youth or children’s ministry, or whatever area most interests you. The goal of the interview is to determine what (if any) is the strategy of evangelism for the church or ministry area. You are not to go trying to critique or analyze, but rather simply to listen and learn how they approach evangelism.
- After the interview you will submit a **2-3 page** written report of the things you found most interesting, insightful or challenging.

4.6 Towards an Evangelism Strategy – Due November 30th - 15%

- Design an outreach strategy for a specific ministry context and target audience. This may be a church ministry with which you have had past or present involvement, or it may be an anticipated ministry in your future. This project should integrate insights gained from your reading (especially the Mittelberg book), the church leader interview, class notes, and experiences in outreach.
- Submit a **4-6 page** paper that describes the ministry context and target audience in terms of generations, worldviews, culture, and other applicable characteristics. Then describe the strategies and means of outreach which you would employ to reach out with the gospel in that context.

4.7 “In the World” assignment - Due December 7th – 25%

- During the semester you will plan at least 4 “events” that will increase your contact with non-Christians with whom ongoing relationships can develop. Some possibilities include:
 - Coffee at (eg. Starbucks)
 - Offering hospitality to neighbors
 - Joining a (non-church league) sports team, fitness class, or outdoors club
 - Volunteering in your community
 - Adopting an International student
 - volunteering at a nursing home, youth shelter, or something like Mustard Seed
 - tutoring new immigrants in English
 - doing something at U of C, SAIT, or Mt. Royal
 - others??? --- be creative
- It would be preferable if all four of the events involved the same person(s) in order to maximize the development of a relationship.
- One of the “events” is to be a listening exercise. You will “talk” to this person about their “faith” but the goal is **not** to share the gospel but rather to be aware of how the conversation flows, how you listen, and how you move the conversation along and draw the other person out to share **their** views. You are to observe and learn about your own ability (or lack thereof) to actively listen.
 - After the listening exercise you are to analyze what you learned about your own ability to listen and draw people out. You will write these reflections in the journal described below.
- Throughout the semester you will keep a journal of these “in the world” contacts. Keep note of the joys, risks and challenges that develop. You should have at least 4, dated journal entries but there should also be a prologue explaining how you established the contacts, as well as concluding thoughts summarizing how you felt about the experiences and how things turned out. Include if you ever had the freedom or open door to share your personal story of faith in Jesus and invite them to faith in Jesus too. If not, that’s ok, but share why you didn’t feel that freedom. If yes, describe what happened.
- You will submit a typed, edited version of your journal which should be **6-8 pages**.

5. Grade Distribution

Reading and class participation – 5%
Reading reports – 20%
Evangelism and Scripture paper – 15%
“Questions and responses” – 10%
Church leader interview – 10%
Evangelism strategy paper – 15%
“In the World” – 25%

6. General Information

- If not turned in to the instructor in class, students are to submit their completed assignments and exams to the Receptionist on 6th floor. The Receptionist will note the date received and forward assignments to the respective instructors immediately.
- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: September 15
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty: November 15
- **Late work:** For each day late, there will be a drop of a letter grade (eg. a B+ will drop to a B). All work is **due on the date indicated at the beginning of the class period**. You are expected to anticipate overlapping requirements with other courses so please plan ahead.
- **Recommendations for papers:** Strive to write at a graduate level, realizing that what may have been acceptable in undergraduate work may not be for master’s degree papers. While the quality of your content is very important, the use of poor grammar, punctuation, spelling and style does detract from the overall quality of a paper. Deficiencies in these areas will result in a lower grade, and very honestly, they will reflect poorly on your ministry down the road. If possible, ask someone or several people to critique your work before submission. Allow time for the process of revision and recognize that rewriting and editing is a normal part of writing well. Contact Terry Symes in the Learning Services Center for further help (especially if English is not your mother tongue).
- **Grading Scale:**

| <u>Letter Grade</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| A+ | Excellent |
| A | |
| A- | Good |
| B+ | |
| B | |
| B- | Satisfactory |
| C+ | |
| C | |
| C- | Poor |
| D+ | |
| D | |
| F | Minimal Pass |
| | Failure |
- **Policy on extensions:** Requests for a course extension must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by December 20. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.” All written assignments turned in after December 20 must be submitted to the Receptionist on the 6th floor. The professor will not accept any written work after December 20 unless permission has been granted from the Registrar's office

- **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy:** The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean