

# EV 501 Personal & Corporate Outreach

Autumn 2008

Instructor: Steve Zub

## Contacting the Instructor

**Office Hours:** Th/1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Office Phone:**

**Class Times:** Thursday 8:15 – 11:00

**Class Location:**

**Email Address:** [steve@zubs.org](mailto:steve@zubs.org)

## Course Description

This course seeks to integrate the practice of evangelism, both personal & corporate, with developing a wholesome biblical lifestyle. Understanding how the early and ancient church evangelized their world is key to inspiring and informing the church today to evangelizing our world with integrity. Participants will be encouraged to improve their effectiveness in the personal communication of the Gospel. Skills & techniques will be learned to enhance the participant's style of communicating the Gospel. Principles & approaches for developing disciples will be explored in an effort to help new believers as they are incorporated into a local fellowship.

## Course Objectives

- ☞ To learn how to share our Christian Faith—our belief in the triune God & the person of Jesus Christ with confidence, clarity & conviction.
- ☞ To understand & value how the early & ancient church reached out to their world with the gospel.
- ☞ To understand the present world in which we live—a despairing & deceptive world & how Christians can best reach out to...influence...and transform their society for good & for the sake of God's kingdom.
- ☞ To understand the importance & dynamics of proselytizing in a world that disdains it.
- ☞ To value the Word of God more than we do now & to integrate scripture in our efforts to evangelize in today's world that is becoming more & more biblically illiterate.
- ☞ To understand what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## Required Texts

- Green, Michael. Evangelism in the Early Church, Eerdmans, 2003
- Webber, Robert. Ancient-Future Evangelism, Baker, 2003
- Newman, Randy. Questioning Evangelism, Kregel 2004

## Course Outline

Class content will revolve around these four topics:

- ☞ **Message**—What exactly is it? Exclusive/Inclusive debate.
- ☞ **Methods**—The different approaches being practiced today. Are there methods that are outdated or needs adapting. [Key websites will also be accessed.]
- ☞ **Messenger**—The importance the Christian’s personal life in being a fruitful Christian witness/evangelist.
- ☞ **Mission Field**—Understanding & Reaching our multi-cultural world fruitfully and with integrity. Attention will be given to outreach to the Secular Humanist & the Muslim world. The issue of proselytizing will be addressed in depth—it is a highly charged debate today among many. The proselytizing debate is the “WHY?” question which needs to be grappled with seriously.

## Course Schedule

This class meets every Thursday morning beginning on September 18<sup>th</sup>, except for November 6<sup>th</sup> when the professor will be away. There are 12 weeks of classes in total with the last class being on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

- ☞ Nov 6      NO CLASS — the professor is away.

## Course Requirements & Grade

**A. Book Review & Response Paper** (6-8 pages) on Michael Green, Evangelism in the Early Church, which:

1. Summarizes the thesis of the book. [What point/proposition is the author arguing for?] (4 marks)
2. Discusses the development of the thesis throughout the book. [How does the author prove his argument?] (6 marks)
3. Evaluates whether or not the author successfully defended his thesis. (10 marks)
  - a. Do you agree/disagree with his thesis & why?
  - b. Does he successfully argue/prove his point? Why or why not?
  - c. Be careful not to repeat his thesis arguments in your evaluation in order to fill space. Your interaction with his arguments is what is important.

**DUE: Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> /2008    (20% of final grade)**

**B. Book Review & Response Paper** (6-8 pages) on Randy Newman, Questioning Evangelism, which responds to the following questions:

1. What is the main point that Newman is arguing for? (4 marks)
2. How does he prove his argument? (6 marks)
3. Do you agree or disagree with Newman’s thesis & argument. Why or why not? [Your insights & interaction are significant] (7 marks)
4. How has this book impacted you personally in the area of personal outreach? (3 marks)

**DUE: Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> /2008    (20% of final grade)**

**C. Book Review & Response Paper** (6-8 pages) on Robert Webber, Ancient-Future Evangelism, which includes the following:

1. A clear identification of the thesis of the book and its relationship to the title. (4 marks)
2. An in-depth outline of the development of the thesis. (6 marks)
3. An assessment of the strengths/weaknesses of the thesis with specific reference to the book's content. (6 marks)
4. An evaluation of the relevance of the book's contents for the part of the Christian community to which you relate. (4 marks)

**DUE: Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> /2008 (20% of final grade)**

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☞ If you haven't already read the book—*How to Read a Book*, by Mortimer J. Adler & Charles Van Doren, you would benefit immensely for all future academic work.

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**D. Final Exam**

**(40% of final grade)**

- How will/can you, the student, be a better witness for Christ in light of all that you have learned from taking this class? [Personal Application—Integration]
  - ☞ More specifically—Take the material you have digested from the textbooks and learned in our 12 classes together to craft your answer to the exam question.

## General Information

- Late Work: For each 24-hour period late, there will be a drop of a letter grade (e.g. B+ will drop to B). All work is due at the beginning of the class session on the day assigned. The learner is expected to anticipate overlap with other courses & their requirements & therefore, to plan ahead.
- Academic Regulations: The professor will comply with all academic regulations set forth in the current CTS catalogue & Student Handbook & expects the student to be familiar with them.
- Course Revisions: The professor reserves the right to modify any part of the course if he deems it necessary & advantageous.
- Extra Copies: Please ensure that you retain a personal copy of all the work that you submit for this course.
- **No assignments will be received by electronic transmission.**