

COS 523: Evangelism

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I. Course Description

This course will examine how the evangelistic mission of the church started, beginning with the Great Commission and other biblical texts. The class will closely examine Wesley's model of Evangelism in England and how/why it grew in America. The class will also discuss Evangelism models that have worked in local communities and discuss ways to share the gospel in a multicultural world. Each student will be introduced to the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God for today's society.

II. Textbooks

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Mortimer Arias: *Announcing the Reign of God*
- Henry Knight & F Douglass Power: *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*
- Eddie Fox & George Morris: *Faith-Sharing*

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS:

- F. Douglass Powe: *New Wine, New Wineskins: How African American Congregations Can Reach New Generations*
- Stephen Gunter, Elaine Robinson, ed.: *Considering the Great Commission*

III. Goals and Objectives

Close attention to this course will help students ...

1. Develop an understanding of the Biblical models for Evangelism by closely examining selected text from the Synoptic Gospels and selected stories from the Book of Acts and the Epistles of Paul.
3. Review Modern shifts in the area of Evangelism.
4. Reflect on and articulate the meaning of the Gospel and an understanding of the Church as bearers of God's Word to the world.
5. Ground a theology of evangelism in scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
6. Interpretation of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
7. Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by the congregation.

IV. Work Requirements

ASSIGNMENT 1:

Answer the following question in a 3 – 5 page double-spaced paper:

From your understanding of scripture, your experience with the church, and your personal witness opportunities: What is your understanding of Evangelism?

This paper should be e-mailed/mailed to instructor using the provided information. Feel free to utilize scriptures that helped you develop this understanding. To allow adequate time for instructor's review, time of assignment's arrival needs to be no later than one week prior to our first weekend together.

ASSIGNMENT 2:

Each student will develop a plan for Evangelism (MAP) for their local church/charge. Directions and other criteria will be discussed during our first weekend together. This assignment will be mailed prior to our second weekend together.