

Evangelism

COS #523



**Course of Study School of Ohio
West Virginia Extension
Summer, 2021
On-Line**



**Rev. Dr. Ellis E. Conley
21 Renard Run
Hurricane, West Virginia 25526
conleyellis@aol.com**

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION (GOALS and OBJECTIVES)

This course introduces students to the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God.

Students will be able to:

1. Reflect on and articulate the meaning of the Gospel and an understanding of the Church as bearers of God's Word to the world.
2. Ground a theology of evangelism in scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
3. Interpret of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
4. Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by the congregation.

(from COS Spring Heights, Course Objectives, COS Revised Curriculum – 2014)

II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

In addition to the course goals and objectives, students will consider the life cycle of their congregations and be introduced to relational evangelism including hospitality, being a missionary, contextual communities, discipleship pathways, and discipleship coaching.

III. TEXTBOOKS (required)

Aris, Mortimer, Announcing the Reign of God, Wipf and Stock, 2001.

Fox, Eddie H. and Morris, George E, Faith Sharing (revised and expanded version), Discipleship Resources, 1998.

Knight, Henry H and Powe, F. Douglas, Transforming Evangelism, Discipleship Resources

Schreiner, Mike and Willard, Ken, Stride: Creating a Discipleship Pathway For Your Church, Abingdon Press, 2017.

Recommended Resources:

Reese, Martha Grace, Unbinding the Gospel, Chalice Press, 2008

“Contextual Communities” with Joe Webb
WVUMC/Portico and complete the class.

“5 Things Visitors Are Thinking But Don't Ask” with Jason Moore.
WVUMC/Portico and complete the class.

IV. CLASS STANDARDS

A. Wesleyan “Rule of Life”:

- Do no harm
- Do good
- Attend to ordinances of God (spiritual discipline).

(*General Rules, UM Discipline 2016*)

B. Inclusive language

It is expected that students be committed to equality for women and men of every racial and ethnic background. Students and instructor are to use language which exemplifies respect, dignity, and equality in conversations with colleagues, in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in writings. Class participants will be expected to use inclusive language in all writings and during class discussion & participation. If you have specific questions, please see the instructor. (Helpful resource, *Words that Hurt, Words that Heal (new edition)* (Cokesbury.com download, original 1980 resource)

C. Academic Integrity

Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the learning community. (see page 31, *COS Student Handbook, 2013* – “Academic responsibility”) Also, guidelines for writing, page 25, *COS Handbook*.

D. Attendance

Instructor expects timely participation of students; tardiness is a sign of disrespect to others. Extenuating circumstances should be reported to instructor and COS Dean immediately. (see COS Attendance Policy – page 15, *COS Student Handbook, 2013*)

E. Confidentiality

It is imperative that students do not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. In addition, students are expected to honor the privacy and confidentiality of their classmates by not disclosing conversations with those outside of the zoom session classrooms.

V. ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING, AND EVALUATION

Note: All assignments are due and expected on time. If because of some extenuating circumstances you are unable to meet a given deadline, you must contact the instructor *before* the deadline in question is expected. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade for the assignment. No Incomplete grade can be granted in this class.

Helpful hint - Make a printed copy of all written work e-mailed to the instructor.

A. Class participation (25% of final grade) COS requires that students attend all class sessions in order to receive credit for the course. No “cuts” or “excused absences” are allowed for church, community, family, or other business. In extreme cases, such as serious illness, family emergency, or funeral, an additional paper on the reading material of the missed session will be required and negotiated with the instructor. **NOTE: Posting required reflection on the Discussion Board weekly is the major factor in the participation grading. (see the weekly question for posting and instructions)**

1. Timely, careful reading, and completion of assignments in preparation for class participation is expected.
2. Class discussion through verbal contributions including any small group is expected; respectful and hospitable listening to contributions by others is a class norm. Each class member must contribute regularly to discussions without monopolizing the time.

B. Initial Paper “Where God Has Called Me to Serve” (20% of final grade) (due Friday, August 27)

The paper must be 6-8 pages long, double spaced, 12-point font. No more than 8 pages. The following outline to help organize your thoughts. (*You may want to use this outline to identify sections of your paper. Be reflective and honest.*)

- Describe the church/charge where you are assigned. Large, small, rural, urban, community church, family chapel, multi-generational? How has the church changed over the past 10 years, 20 years?
- Describe the location and community that surrounds it. What sort of folks live in the community? How has it changed in the past 10 years, 20 years?
- What are the types of people who live in your community but who don’t attend your church? What is it about your congregation that creates an invisible barrier – reasons why the people listed aren’t in the congregation?
- How does your church/charge connect with the community in involvement, ministry, outreach and evangelism? Is the church in the “center” of the community or on the “edge,” not by location, but by community involvement, mission, and outreach?
- What are the significant ministries of the church?

- What are the greatest opportunities and challenges?
- Describe evangelism by the church and its members.
- How do you see yourself as pastor and a leader to the church/charge? How do members of the congregation see you?
- What else should I know about your congregation?

**C. Three Reading Reflection Papers (30% of final grade) - each paper 10%
Each paper is to be 3-5 pages, no more than 5 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font.**

Required reading:

Arias, Announcing the Reign of God

Fox and Morris, Faith Sharing

Knight and Powe, Transforming Evangelism

Outline for each Reflection Paper based on the assigned reading:

- State a brief review of the topic of the assigned reading.
- What issue or issues are raised for you from the reading?
- With what do you agree in the book?
- With what do you disagree and why?
- What one or more insight from the assigned reading will you put into practice and be useful to you in your preaching and ministry?

Reflection paper #1 - “Transforming Evangelism” (due Fri, Sept. 10)

Knight and Powe, Transforming Evangelism

Reflection paper #2 - “Announcing the Reign of God” (due Friday, Oct 1)

Arias, Announcing the Reign of God

Reflection paper #3 - “Faith-Sharing” (due Friday, Oct 15)

Fox and Morris, Faith-Sharing

D. Final Paper/Project “Becoming a Relational Evangelistic Church” (25% of final grade) The paper should be at least 6-8 pages in length, and no more than 10 pages, 12-point font. Due by Friday, October 29 (12 noon).

Reflecting on the Church Life Cycle Portico class, where is your church/es in its lifecycle? If you serve a multiple point charge, where is each church. Is there tension because of churches being at different places on the life cycle.

What have you learned about evangelism about your church/charge during this class?

What barriers does your congregation/es need to break down? What bridges need to be built?

Reflecting on the Knight and Powe book, what are the first steps you will take as pastor to help move your people toward relational evangelism? Who can help you?

Where might God be leading you or a lay person to begin a “Fresh Expressions” in your community?

Reflecting on the Schreiner and Willard book, what would a discipleship pathway look like for your church/es? Who can help you implement it? What would be first steps?

What are the next steps you will take to become a discipleship coach yourself as your lead the congregation? Who are two persons that you could coach? When will you get started?

What is your time-line the implementing your plans? 2 months? 6 months?

If you and I were to have a coaching call conversation in 2 months what would we celebrate that you and your team have accomplished?

VI. SCHEDULE OF CLASS TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note: See Asynchronous Syllabus for Discussion Board/Podcast/Class/ Video Schedule

August 27, Friday – Introductory Paper due

August 28, Saturday

Read Prior to Class

Arias, Announcing the Reign of God

Knight & Powe, Transforming Evangelism

Zoom Session #1 (9am – 11 am)

Each class session will be from 9 am to 11 am with a 10-minute break.

9:00 am **Introductions, Syllabus Review/Assignments**
The Wesleyan Way of Relational Evangelism

10:00 am **Biblical Images for Evangelism**
Presence, Imminence, In-Breaking
Gift, Hope, Challenge

September 10, Friday Reflection Paper #1 “Transforming Evangelism” due

September 18, Saturday

Read Prior to Class

Fox & Morris, Faith Sharing

Zoom Session #2 (9am – 11 am)

Each class session will be from 9 am to 11 am with a 10-minute break.

9 am **Beginning Your Team With Prayer**

10 am **Who Are the Unchurched in Your Community?**

October 1, Friday Reflection Paper #2 “Announcing the Reign of God (Presence, Imminence, In-Breaking, Gift, Hope, Commitment)” due

October 2, 2021 (9 am -11 am and 1 pm – 3 pm)

Zoom Class #3

Each class session will be from 9 am to 11 am with a 10-minute break.

9 am. **Barriers and Bridges**

10 am. **What Visitors Want**

Zoom Class #4

Each class session will be from 1 pm to 3 pm with a 10-minute break.

1 pm. **Pastoral and Lay Responsibilities for Evangelism,
Grace Sharing**

2 pm. **Networking – Walking Across the Room**

October 15, Friday, Reflection paper #3 - “Faith Sharing” due

Saturday, October 16 (9 am – 11 am)

Each class session will be from 9 am to 11 am with a 10-minute break.

Read prior to class
Schreiner and Willard, Stride

9 am. **Discipleship Coaching**

10 am **Discipleship Pathways**

VII. Asynchronous Syllabus

(Asynchronous required 10 hours)

DISCUSSION BOARD (Facebook group page)

The Facebook group page is to be used only for discussion of these assignments, not for personal communication.

Each week you are to post a response of 100 words or less to question posed by instructor; and, also reply/respond with no more than 100 words to at least two (2) of your fellow students. Throughout the term, you must have responded to each of the class members). **Posts must be completed by Friday, 12 noon, following the Sunday instructor post.**

Audio/Video instruction: You are to listen/view the podcast, class, or video clip, and then reflect and respond in 100 words or less to the questions asked; Note: you may discuss by reply to other class members, but for podcast/video responses this is not required.

Week 1 (August 22-27)

- **Question will be posted by instructor on Sunday August 22.**
- **Listen to the Portico Class: “Church Life Cycle” by Ken Willard**
(Go to wvumc.org/portico and create an account. Find and complete the class.
- **Response to class:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the class? Where would you locate your church/es? Any issues?*

Week 2 (August 29-September 3)

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, August 29.**
- **1. Listen to the Podcast: “Leading Ideas Talks # 29 A More Engaging Hospitality” with Juan Francisco Martinez (37 minutes)**
<https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/episode-29-a-more-engaging-hospitality-featuring-dr-juan-francisco-martinez/>

- **2. Watch the Video: The Church and the Grocery Store** (2 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLQfhxDld7E>
- **Respond to podcast and video:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the podcast and video? Any issues?*

Week 3 (September 5-September 10)

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, September 5.**
- **Listen to the Podcast: “Leading Ideas Talks #30 Being a Missionary in Your Own Community” with Laura Heikes** (36 minutes)
<https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/episode-30-being-a-missionary-in-your-own-community-featuring-laura-heikes/>
- **Respond to the Podcast:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the podcast? Any issues?*

Week 4 (September 12- September 17)

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, September 12.**
- **Listen to the Podcast: “Leading Ideas Talks # 13 Dream Big to Reach New People” with Olu Brown** (35 minutes)
<https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/episode-13-dream-big-to-reach-new-people-featuring-olu-brown/>
- **Respond to the Podcast:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the podcast? Any issues?*

Week 5 (September 19-September 24)

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, September 19.**
- **Listen to the podcast: “Leading Ideas #1 “The Possibilities of Fresh Expressions featuring Ken Carter and Audrey Warren** (36 minutes)
<https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/episode-1-possibilities-fresh-expressions/>
- **Respond to podcast:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the class? Any issues?*

Week 6 (September 26-October 1)

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, September 26.**
- **Listen to the Podcast: “Leading Ideas Talks #61 The Art of Hospitality” with Debi Nixon (31 minutes)**
<https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/episode-61-the-art-of-hospitality-featuring-debi-nixon/>
- **Respond to podcast:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the podcast? Any issues?*

Week 7 (October 3-October 8)

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, October 3.**
- **View the Podcast: “Leading Ideas # 11-Effectively Reaching Millennials” with Joshua Mitchell (32 minutes)**
<https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/effectively-engaging-millennials-featuring-joshua-mitchell/>
- **Respond to posdcast:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the podcast? Any issues?*

Week 8 (October 10-October 15))

- **Question will be posted by the instructor on Sunday, October 10.**
- **Watch the Portico Class: “Discipleship Coaching” taught by Ken Willard (Log into the WVUMC Portico and complete the class.)**
- **Respond to the class:** *What one idea, insight was helpful? What is the one take-away concept you like from the presentation? Any issues?*

VIII. SUMMARY OF COS 523/ ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

DUE FRIDAY, 12 NOON

August 22 – October 15	WEEKLY DISCUSSION BOARD REFLECTION POSTINGS
Friday, August 27	Reflection posting “Church Life Cycle”
Friday, August 27	“Where God Has Called Me To Serve” paper due
Friday, September 3	Reflection posting “A More Engaging Hospitality” and The Church and the Grocery Store”
Friday, September 10	Reflection posting “Being a Missionary In Your Own Community”
Friday, September 10	Reflection paper #1 “Transforming Evangelism”
Friday, September 17	Reflection posting “Dream Big To Reach New People”
Friday, September 24	Reflection posting “The Possibilities of Fresh Expressions”
Friday, October 1	Reflection paper #2 “Announcing the Reign of God”
Friday, October 1	Reflection posting “The Art of Hospitality”
Friday, October 8	Reflection posting “Effectively Reaching Millennials”
Friday, October 15	Reflection paper #3 “Faith-Sharing”
Friday, October 15	Reflection posting “Discipleship Coaching”
Friday, October 29	Final paper “Becoming a Relational Evangelistic Church”