

Evangelism

COS #523



Course of Study School of Ohio
West Virginia Extension
Spring Heights
Summer, 2023



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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 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 sharing their faith story, 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.

Hybels, Bill, Just Walk Across the Room, Zondervan, 2006.

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:

Moore, Jason, Both/And: Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences For In-Person and Online Engagement, Invite Press, 2022

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

IV. CLASS STANDARD

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 (10% 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.

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” (15% of final grade)
(due Friday, August 25)**

The paper must be 6-8 pages long, double spaced, 12-point font. No more than 8 pages. Use following outline to 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 since 2000?
- Describe the location and community that surrounds it. What sort of folks live in the community? How has it changed since 2000?
- What “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 this 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 in mission and evangelism?

- 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. Six Reading Reflection Papers (60% of final grade) - each paper 10%
Each paper varies in length and is to be double-spaced with a 12-point font.

Reflection paper #1 – “The Gospel as Gift, Hope, and Challenge” due Fri, Sept. 1, 3 pages

Arias, Announcing the Reign of God

Write 3 one-page devotions, one each on the Gospel as Gift, the Gospel as Hope, and the Gospel as Challenge.

Reflection paper #2 - “Transforming Evangelism” due Friday, September 15, 3-4 pages

Knight and Powe, Transforming Evangelism

- State a brief summary of the main points of the book.
- How do the authors understand that evangelism must be transformed as well as acknowledging Christ’s ability to transform individuals and communities?
- What two or three “take-a-ways” will you put into practice and be useful to you in your preaching and ministry?

Reflection paper #3 – “Church Life Cycle” due Friday, September 22, 2-3 pages

Watch “Church Life Cycle” on the Portico on the West Virginia Annual Conference Website site. In 2-3 pages, describe where your church is on the church life cycle, and what might be next steps to lead your church forward.

Reflection paper #4 – “Being a Missionary In Your Own Community” Laura Heikes, Leading Ideas Talks #30, due Friday, September 29, 3-4 pages

- State a brief summary of the main points of the podcast.
- What are three “take-a-ways” that will help you better understand your community and therefore hopefully be more effective in reaching new people?

Reflection paper #5 – “The Art of Hospitality” Debi Nixon, Leading Ideas Talks #61 Due Friday, October 6, 3-4 pages

- State a brief summary of the main points of the podcast.
- What are three “take-a-ways” for you from the podcast that will help you and your congregation better understand hospitality and becoming more welcoming and outward focused?

Reflection paper #6 – Hybrid Worship: Reaching People Here and There, Now and Later, Jason Moore, due October 13, 3-4 pages Leading Ideas Podcast #119, or via the West Virginia Annual Conference Church Vitality Facebook page

- State a brief summary of the main points of the podcast/video cast.
- What are three “take-a-ways” that will become first steps to make your online worship more engaging to reach unchurched persons rather than your congregation?

D. Final Paper/Project “Becoming a Relational Evangelistic Church” (15% of final grade) The paper should be at least 6-8 pages in length, and no more than 8 pages, 12-point font. Due Friday, November 3).

- What have you learned about your community, your church/charge, and evangelism during this class?
- What barriers does your congregation/es need to break down? What bridges need to be built to become a congregation that practices greater hospitality?
- Reflecting on the both the Knight & Powe and the Hybels books, 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 be a first step in developing a discipleship pathway for your church/charge? Who can help you implement it?
- 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? What is your timeline for implementing your plan?
- Are there ways you can change your online worship broadcast to make it more appealing to unchurched persons?
- 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 in becoming a more relational evangelistic church?

VI. SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND CLASS TOPICS

August 26, Saturday

Read Prior to Class

Aris, Announcing the Reign of God
Knight & Powe, Transforming Evangelism

August 26, Saturday,

9 -11 am Zoom class

Introductions, Syllabus Review/Assignments
Biblical Images for Evangelism: Presence, Imminence, & In-Breaking,
Gift, Hope, & Challenge
“The Church and the Grocery Store”

1 -3 pm Zoom Class

The Wesleyan Way of Evangelism
Barriers and Bridges
Pastoral and Lay Responsibilities for Evangelism

October 20 - 23 Weekend at Spring Heights

Read Prior to Class

Fox & Morris, Faith Sharing
Shreiner & Willard, Stride: Creating a Discipleship Pathway for Your Church

Friday, October 20, pm

Getting Acquainted
Networking- Walking Across the Street
“The Single Greatest Gift” Bill Hybels

Saturday, October 21, am

“Living In 3 D” Bill Hybels
What Visitors Want
“Dream Big to Reach New People” Olu Brown, Leading Ideas Talks #13

Saturday, October 21, pm

“The Power of Story” Bill Hybels

Creating Discipleship Pathways

Discipleship Coaching

“The Possibilities of Fresh Expressions, Leading Ideas #1, Ken Carter & Audrey Warren

Sunday, October 23, pm

“Grander Vision Living” Bill Hybels

Principles in Faith Sharing

Faith Sharing – Telling Your Story