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ME 610 Principles of Interpersonal Ministry

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
The Gospel of Jesus Christ has to be communicated on many different fronts. Most of the world is "gospel proof" to any one approach alone. It is important, therefore, to develop styles of evangelism which are solid, workable, but uniquely personal. Evangelism is more than technique; it is total lifestyle. The world need not know where our living leaves off and our witness begins as we learn to weave gospel bones into the flesh of our own experience.
This course will survey concepts, models, techniques and training methods employed in interpersonal evangelism. Some cross-cultural considerations are included along with some visitation-evangelism field experiences.

II. GENERAL GOALS
A. To develop a clear understanding of the gospel content and to develop guidelines for staying in touch with the heart of the gospel message.

B. To develop guidelines for establishing and then maintaining a keen awareness of our own particular sphere of influence.

C. To motivate and equip students for evangelism, one-on-one.

III. TOPIC LISTINGS AND SEQUENCE
A. "Establishing the Gospel Core"

Sept. 8,10 The Apostolic Precedent (What It Meant)

Sept. 15,17 A Contemporary Word (What It Means)
        First critique due (17)

Sept. 22,24 Developing Personal Guidelines
        Second critique due (24)

Sept. 29,Oct. 1 Case studies Demonstrating the Clarity of Content

B. "Establishing One's Sphere of Influence"
Oct. 6,8  Messianic Complexes Die Hard
         First case due (3)

Oct. 13,15  I'm Indispensable
            Third critique (10)

Oct. 20,22  Developing Personal Guidelines
            Second case (17)

Oct. 27,29  Case Studies Demonstrating the Importance
            of One's Sphere of Influence.

C. "Meeting Felt Needs"

Nov. 3,5  Ministering to a Needy People

Nov. 10,12  Needs Surface Within the Context of
            Genuine Relationships
            6-8 pp. paper due (7)

Nov. 17,19  Allowing the Holy Spirit to Work
            Fourth critique (14)

Nov. 23-27  Reading week (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 1,3  Case Studies (the Importance of Relating
            to Felt Needs).

D. "Born Again, What Then" (Follow-up)

Dec. 8,10  Follow-up Through Relationships
            Third case (5)

Dec. 15  Exam week (review)
         No class Dec. 17

IV. COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Requirements:  One paper of approximately 6-8 pages, establishing guidelines for your understanding of the Gospel core. "I know the Gospel is true because..." Four one-page book critiques (two from the required texts and two from the collateral reading). Three case studies demonstrating relational evangelism (a form for this will be provided)

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Texts
Robert Tuttle, Jr., *Someone Our There Needs Me*, Zondervan (out of print but photo copies are available in the ESJ office)

Collateral Reading


VI. TERMINAL OBJECTIVES

Each student upon the successful completion of the assignments should:

A. Have a feel for communicating the gospel one-on-one as to demonstrate with reasonable proficiency the ability to engage another person with the claims of the gospel. This will be tested by case studies written up out of the student's personal experience.

B. Understand the basic content of the gospel and be able to communicate that content clearly, succinctly, and comfortably. Again, this will be tested as the student has an opportunity to share the gospel in a lab type setting with other students.

C. Be sensitive to their own opportunities for ministry on a daily basis. Each student will be asked to develop guidelines that will keep them in touch with their own particular sphere of influence.