1-1-2008

MS 692 Theology of Evangelism

Robert G. Tuttle

Follow this and additional works at: http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/2324

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.
Cokesbury will no longer be available on the Florida-Dunnam Campus. All students are responsible for ordering their textbooks online or from another source. Some possible online sources are: www.cokesbury.com, www.amazon.com, www.christianbook.com, or www.bookfinder.com. If you need assistance or have any questions please contact Kandace Brooks at 407-482-7584.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

It is our intent to present evangelism as the controlling purpose of all divine revelation and to clarify the fundamentals of doctrine immediately related to the propagation of the gospel. Various theologies of evangelism will be examined in light of both their historical and contemporary expression. The course seeks to clarify, from a Wesleyan perspective, the basic gospel message and aid students in their design of theologically appropriate methods and motivations for its communication in order that we may be better equipped as "ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

II. GENERAL GOALS

A. To provide students with a theological as well as Biblical understanding of evangelism.
B. To acquaint the student with the various methodologies appropriate for their own particular styles of evangelism.
C. To equip students with tools for more effective evangelism.
D. To motivate students for evangelism.

III. TOPIC LISTINGS AND SEQUENCE (Subject to some modification).

Sept. 2: "Evangelism and the Nature of Revelation--What is Truth?"

Sept. 9: "A Dynamic View of Scripture."

Sept. 16: "Establishing the Core."
Assignment due: The first book critique (all weekly assignments are due Tuesday at the beginning of class):

**Sept. 23:** "Evangelism and the Human Dilemma--The Fall."
Assignment due: The first case study.

**Sept. 30:** "Evangelism and Covenant Theology."
Assignment due: The Theological Reflection paper.

**Oct. 7:** "Evangelism and the Nature of God--What is God Like?"
Assignment due: The second book critique.

**Oct. 14:** "What Has God Done In Jesus Christ?"
Assignment due: The second case study.

**Oct. 21:** "Evangelism and the Work of the Holy Spirit--A Theology of Grace."

**Oct. 28:** "Accessing the Power of the Holy Spirit."
Assignment due: The third book critique.

**Nov. 4:** "The Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit."
Assignment due: The third case study.

**Nov. 11:** "Styles of Evangelism--A Theological Perspective."
Assignment due: The fourth book critique.

**Nov. 18:** "Motivation for Evangelism--The Next Generation."
Assignment due: Final Research paper.

**Week 12: READING WEEK (Nov. 24-28)**

**Dec. 2:** Review.

**NO FINAL EXAM**

**IV. COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

Requirements:
A. Attend sessions with the professor and participate in the practicums.
B. Completion of ALL assigned readings (approximately 1200 pages from the required and collateral texts).
C. A **theological** reflection paper (2 to 3 pages double spaced) describing your own journey as personal experience with a focus on the key theological issues involved in your own
growing perceptions of faith in Jesus Christ. Evaluation will depend upon composition, thoroughness, balance, theological clarity, and creative discernment. This paper will be due Sept. 30 and will count 20% toward the final grade.

D. Three evangelistic case studies (limited to the sheet attached) demonstrating your own presentation of the gospel with regard to content and evaluation. Although these will not receive a grade they will count 10% of the final grade.

E. Four book critiques (one page single spaced) on three of the required texts and one from the collateral reading list below. These critiques will count 30% of the grade (guidelines are attached).

F. A final research paper (6 to 8 pages double spaced), for 40% of the grade, from the following options:

1. Examine the theological statement(s) and/or rationale for evangelism offered by your own denomination and "dialogue" with it (defend it, correct it, strengthen it, etc.) developing your own commitment to a theological statement of the meaning, message, methods, and motivation for evangelism today.

2. Develop in outline form an original teaching model (including simplified examples of conversations) for training laity in evangelism. Show how your training model is consistent with your own 1 to 2 page theological statement about the message, methods and motivations of evangelism.

3. Do a study of the book of Acts researching its practical theology of evangelism. What message content is fixed or variable? What cultural and contextual variations are noted? Analyze its "success," the variety of responses by persons, differing dynamics of "follow-up," etc.

4. Participate in a special evangelistic event of a least two full days duration. Evaluate its theological assumptions and presentations along with its consistency between messages and method. If this is led by yourself, prepare a statement correlating your theology and your strategies for accomplishing the goals and objectives of the event.

5. Select five to eight key Biblical words and/or concepts for thorough study and evaluation with regard to their meaning for evangelism. Among the concepts which should be considered are: preach/proclaim, born again, disciple, evangel, evangelize, evangelist, salvation, justification, soul, eternal life, hell, damnation, judgment, etc. Include a summary statement showing the theological relationship between these concepts and evangelism as message, method, and motivation.

6. Other research topics of your choice can be accepted after consultation with the professor.

[ALL PAPERS MUST HAVE A SPO # FOR THEM TO BE RETURNED VIA THE SPO! Students desiring privacy may attach a self addressed large envelope!]

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY
Required Texts

Logan, James, Theology and Evangelism in the Wesleyan Heritage, Kingswood Books, 1993 (233 pp.).
Ton, Peter, Born Again: A Biblical and Theological Study of Regeneration, Baker, 1987 (180 pp.).
Tuttle, Robert, Jr., The Story of Evangelism, Abingdon Press, 2006 (424 pp.).
______________ Can We Talk?, Abingdon Press, 1999 (110 pp.).
______________ Sanctity without Starch, Bristol Books, 1992 (203 pp.).
______________ Shortening the Leap, Bristol Books, 2007 (165 pp.).

Collateral Texts

Barth, Karl, Church Dogmatics, T & T Clark, 1936, III/2, pp. 464-485; IV/2, pp. 553-584; IV/3, pp. 850-901.
Snyder, Howard, Signs of the Spirit: How God Reshapes the Church, Zondervan, 1989, 300 pp..
Stott, John R.W., Basic Christianity, IVP, 1958, 142 pp.

VI. TERMINAL OBJECTIVES

Students upon the successful completion of the assignments should:

A. Be able to present with greater clarity and boldness the gospel message in its many facets and in accord with recognized human need.

B. Be able to identify key theological assumptions underlying both historical and contemporary methodologies, motivations and messages of evangelization.

C. Be able to evaluate and if necessary adjust their own evangelistic ministry and/or theology in order to bring greater consistency and effectiveness to their witness and leadership for the glory of Christ.

Date ___________________ Name ____________________

Case Study Report on an Evangelistic Conversation

(Confine report to the limits of this page leaving at least a one-inch margin for comments by the professor)
1. **Background.** Context of the conversation: where, when, with whom? How did it come about? What were your intentions, expectations, anxieties, etc.?

2. **Description.** How did the conversation begin, continue, conclude? What happened between you and the other person? Between the other person and God?

3. **Analysis and Evaluation.** Identify issues, significant openings and closings of response and what was going on in the relationship. How did the person evaluate the experience?

### HOW TO DO A BOOK CRITIQUE

1. A book critique is **not**:
   - A summary.
   - A reflection paper.

2. A book critique should contain the following:
   - Analysis of the **mechanics** (more objective: 10-15%).
     - Structure of the book.
     - Flow: How does the material fit together?
• Resources.
• Analysis of **content** (more objective:  50-60%).
  • Describe:  What is it?  Was it achieved?
  • **Strengths**:  What does the book do, contribute, etc.
  • **Weaknesses**:  What is missing, etc.
• Application (more subjective:  25-34%).
  • How does this information impact my ministry?
  • What do I find helpful, not so helpful, etc.

3. Use a writing resource manual.
• Some resources to keep in mind.

4. Assignment grading information.
• Each assignment will be evaluated on the following basis.
  • **Perception**:  Did you understand the material?
  • **Thoroughness**:  Did you cover the main elements?
  • **Clarity**:  Did you clearly communicate your ideas?
  • **Objectivity**:  Did you represent the author's views?
  • **Mechanics**:  Did you use a proper writing technique (see above)?
  • **Application**:  How did this material impact you?
  • **Integration**:  Can you incorporate what you learned into your life and ministry (**most important**)?