1-1-2009

ME 840 Evangelization Seminar: Applied Conversion Perspectives

John Sungchul Hong

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

Recommended Citation
http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/2442

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.
Syllabus

**Course:** ME840 W1 (SP 2009)  
**Title:** Evangelization Seminar: Applied Conversion Perspectives  
**Hours:** 3.00  
**Published:** Yes, on 02/05/2009  
**Prerequisites:** None

**Department:** Evangelism/Church Growth  
**Faculty:**

Photo  
Email:  
Office:  
SPO:  

**Meetings:**

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Tuesday from 2:30p to 5:15p in MC204.

**Maximum Registration:** 25  
**Catalog Description:** Readings in influential literatures, both historic and modern and representing various cultures, that address the essence of Christianity and what it means to be "Christian." Attention will be given to how persons become Christians and the nature of Christian conversion and related topics. Students will contribute to most of the class sessions from their reading, research, and reflection.

**Objectives:**

ME 840 Evangelism Seminar: Conversion

ME 840 Evangelism Seminar: Applied Conversion Perspectives

Asbury Theological Seminary  
Spring Term, 2009: Tuesday 2:30-5:15  
Professor: Dr. John Sungchul Hong  
email: john.hong@asburyseminary.edu  
Office: MC 313; phone: 859/858-2216

Credit: Three Hours

**Course Description**

Readings in influential literatures, both historic and modern and representing various cultures, that address the essence of Christianity and what it means to be "Christian." Attention will be given to how persons become Christians and the nature of Christian conversion and related topics. Students will contribute to most of the class sessions from their reading, research, and reflection.

**Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are as follows:

1. To help students develop a biblical understanding of Christian conversion for practical use.  
2. To help students develop a reading strategy that enables them to grasp some classic literature of Christian conversion.  
3. To help students understand psychological aspects and their practical applications of Christian conversion.  
4. To help students demonstrate to others the centrality of conversion to Christianity by exposing them to the message of the cross.  
5. To help students develop into leaders in Christian conversion.

**Required Texts**


Outreach, Inc., 2003 (435pp.)


Collateral Texts


21. Students can select one contemporary conversion narrative from the following collateral reading list

   a. Born Again – Charles Colson
   b. Girl Meets God – Lauren Winner
   c. Father Joe – Tony Hendra
   d. Soul on Ice – Eldridge Cleaver
   e. Waiting for God – Simone Weil
   f. Surprised by Joy – C.S. Lewis
   g. Seven Storey Mountain – Thomas Merton
   h. My Confession – Leo Tolstoy
   i. Narrative of Sojourner Truth – by Sojourner Truth
   j. Traveling Mercies – Ann Lamott
   k. Facing East – Frederica Matthewes-Green
   l. Love’s Work – Gillian Rose

Requirements and Written Assignments
Students will be expected to faithfully attend class and turn in the following in single space format:

- Present assigned chapters of *The Message of the Cross* each week.
- Present a brief interaction to the assigned readings (see attached format). This interaction paper should be registered in the course discussion room. Your own substantive questions may be raised in the discussion you may want to discuss.
- Submit a 3-5 page reading report for the text except three texts the students are going to present and discuss in the class (*Conversion in the NT, Knowing the Heart, and Understanding Religious Conversion*). Briefly summarize the text’s argument, your critical analysis of it, and personal insights into evangelism that you have gained from it at the end of the course.
- In addition, read more than 200 pages from the collateral texts and submit 3-5 page reading reports, following the same format described above at the end of the course.

A final eight to fifteen (+) page research paper will be turned in at the end of the course based on one of the following topics:

1. Topics will be chosen/assigned on the first day of class.
2. On February 17, a one-page prospectus will be due. The prospectus will describe what the author hopes to cover in the paper and what he or she hopes to find out. Students will share their prospectuses with the class for suggestions and questions. On approval of the prospectus by the professor, students can proceed to their drafts.
3. On March 3, a final draft of the paper will be due for review and feedback.
4. The completed research paper will be due on March 17.

**Specifications for the paper**

- Use Turabian with in-text citations, footnotes, and references cited.
- The body of the paper should be 8-15 pages in length.
- The paper should include an introduction to the topic, appropriate historical background, theological and practical reflection, and erudite conclusions in keeping with graduate level work.

1. Write an appreciation/critique of one of the contemporary conversion narratives in terms of the insights you have gained from Rambo’s book or
2. Write a theology of conversion that highlights the Wesleyan contribution to the larger Christian tradition on conversion or
3. Write your own conversion narrative modeled on *The Mystery and Meaning of Conversion*. Since this is an autobiographical exercise you are allotted more pages to complete it or
4. Write a biblical aspect of Christian conversion modeled on *Conversion in the New Testament* or
5. Elaborate any phase of conversion theologically and/or biblically.

**Paper presentation**

Student will lead a 50 to 60-minute interactive class session based on her/his research paper. See the class schedule for the dates of specific topics.

**Annotated Bibliography**

On the final day of class, hand in an annotated bibliography of each book and article read for the class and your research paper. Limit annotations to one—at most two—paragraphs. The total reading requirement for this course is around 1,500 pages (not inflated by book back matter—i.e. bibliographies, indexes, and the like).

**Assessments and Evaluation**

All papers are done single space:

1. Turn in assigned reading reports for each class (40% of the grade).
2. Present *The Message of the Cross* (10% of the grade).
3. Turn in another reading report for a collateral text (10% of the grade) at the end of the course.
4. Turn in 8-15 page major research paper (with footnotes) at the end of the month (40% of the grade).
5. Faithfully attend the class lectures/discussions. A student who is absent from the class without permission will be deducted a letter grade. One class absence will require 100 page extra reading and a reading report. Faithful class attendance and conversation is essential to fully grasp the lessons of this course.

**CLASS OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE:**

- **February 10**
  - Course Introduction
  - Introduction of *The Message of the Cross*, 20-35
  - Reading: “Conversion in the New Testament” and “The turn of Conversion” in *Turning to God* by William Barclay

- **February 17**
  - Reflection: “The Lord will provide”
  - Reading: Barclay—Chapters 3-7

- **February 24**
  - Reflection: “It is the Lord’s Passover”

- **March 3**
  - Reflection: “This day atonement shall be made for you”
  - Reading: Peace—“The Experience of the Twelve” 105-215pp.

- **March 10**
  - Reflection: “My God, my God, why?” & “Man of sorrows”
Reading: Peace—¡°The Experience of the Twelve,¡± 216-281pp.

March 17 Reflection: ¡°Crucified Messiah¡±
Rambo—chapters 1-3
Student—Paper presentation

March 24 Reflection: ¡°Suffering servant¡±
Reading: Rambo—chapters 4-11
Student—Paper presentation

March 31 Reading Week
April 7 Reflection: ¡°Compassionate Saviour¡±
Reading: Rambo—chapters 12-18
Student—Paper presentation

April 14 Reflection: ¡°Glorious life-giver¡± & ¡°The cross as undeserved righteousness¡±
Reading: Edwards—¡°The Heart of Man is Exceeding Deceitful¡±
¡°Man is Naturally a Proud Creature¡±
Student—Paper presentation

April 21 Reflection: ¡°The cross as wise folly¡± & ¡°The cross as fatal reconciliation¡±
Reading: ¡°The Nature of Man is so Corrupted that He Is Become a Very Evil and Hateful Creature¡±
¡°Those Whom God Hates, He Oftentimes Gives Plenty of Earthly Things to¡±
¡°The Gadarenes Loved Their Swine Better Than Jesus Christ¡±
Student—Paper presentation

April 28 Reflection: ¡°The cross as present history¡± & ¡°The cross as tragic victory¡±
Reading: ¡°If the Business of Ministers Was to Gratify Men’s Lusts They Would Be Much Better Received¡±
¡°A Presence of Trusting in Christ is a Vain Pretence as Long as Men Live Wicked Lives¡±
¡°Men Are Exceeding Prone to Bring Their Principles to Agree With Their Lusts¡±
Student—Paper presentation

May 5 Reflection: ¡°Once for all¡± & ¡°To this you were called¡±
Reading: ¡°Persons Ought Not to Rest Ignorant and Unresolved¡±
¡°Sinners Under Means of Grace Are Ordinarily More Hardened¡±
¡°A Man May Eternally Undo Himself in One Thought of His Heart¡±
Student—Paper presentation

May 12 Reflection: ¡°God is love¡± & ¡°Worthy is the Lamb¡±
Reading: ¡°Particular Repentance is Necessary to Salvation¡±
¡°Persons Ought to Do What They Can for Their Salvation¡±
¡°Concluding Summary¡±
Student—Paper presentation

May 19 Final Exam due

READING INTERACTION FORM
MS 612 – Christian Conversion

Name/Date:
Chapter(s) or Article Title:

A. Summary:

B. What new insights have you gained from reading this material?
1.
2.
3.
4.

C. What are some applications of these insights to evangelism?
1.
2.
3.
4.

D. What are some issues, concerns, or questions you would like to see discussed in class? What contributions can you make from your own experiences?