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ME 710 Dynamics of Interpersonal Evangelism

Ronald K. Crandall

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Asbury Theological Seminary  
Spring Term, 2003, Tuesdays 2:30-5:15 p.m.  
Professor: Crandall  
Credit: Three Hours  

Prospectus for the Course  
ME 710  
Dynamics of Interpersonal Evangelism

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of interpersonal evangelism theory, theology, models, and training resources employed mainly within the American culture with some attention to cross-cultural witness to persons of other faiths.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Evangelism, like the gospel itself, is ultimately a relational experience and an encounter between persons. Thus, interpersonal evangelism is at the heart of all evangelism. Our aim is to better equip students to understand, to practice and to train others in sensitive and faithful evangelism on a one-to-one basis.

III. PROCEDURE AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Instruction will include lectures, guest speakers, class discussion, reading, along with observation and action assignments outside of class. The reading is considered part of the curriculum and a record of reading must be turned in at the end of the semester. Failure to complete the reading will reduce one's grade by 1 point per 50 pages. One absence from class is allowed. Additional absences require 100 pages extra reading for each class missed and a reading report.

A. READING REQUIREMENTS  
All students are required to complete the following texts:  

In addition, 400 pages of collateral must be read including at least one of the following texts (not previously read) and see BV3790-96, or BV4520 in Library:  
1. *The Case for Christ, by Lee Strobel  
2. *The Case for Faith, by Lee Strobel  
3. *Finding Faith, by Brian McLaren  
4. *Witness: (A small group resource), by Ron Crandall  
5. The Master’s Plan For Making Disciples, by Win and Charles Arn  
6. Becoming a Contagious Christian, by Mark Mittleberg & Bill Hybels  
7. Faith-Sharing, by Eddie Fox and George Morris  
8. The Faith-Sharing New Testament With Psalms, NRSV, Cokesbury  
9. *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched, by Thom Rainer  
10. Conspiracy of Kindness, by Steve Sjogren  
11. Evangelism Outside the Box, by Rick Richardson
Collateral texts continued:
12. One to One, by Terry Wardle
13. How to Reach Secular People, by George Hunter
14. The Celtic Way of Evangelism, by George Hunter
15. How to Give Away Your Faith, by Paul Little
16. Small Group Evangelism, by Richard Peace
17. The Divine Yes, by E. Stanley Jones
18. *Conversion, by E. Stanley Jones
19. Christian Conversions in Context, by Hans Kasdorf
20. The Mystery and Meaning of Christian Conversion, by George Morris
21. The Pastor-Evangelist in the Parish, by Richard Armstrong
22. Evangelism Explosion, by James Kennedy
23. Varieties of Religious Experience, by William James
24. The Master Plan of Evangelism, Robert Coleman
27. Jesus for a New Generation, Kevin Graham Ford
28. The Power of Story, Leighton Ford

See also: Barna Research Online www.barna.org; American Demographics www.demographics.com; Evangelism Toolbox http://www.evangelismtoolbox.com; etc.

B. BOOK REVIEW
A critical book review of one of the texts marked (*) above and following guidelines attached will count 20 points for 15% of the course grade.

C. CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS
1. Each ME710 student is required to provide class leadership for a role-playing situation, a case study, or training program. These assignments should be 20-30 minutes and count 10 points (15% of the course grade).

2. During the semester there will be handouts for out-of-class assignments that will be discussed in class and turned in. These assignments will count 20 points (two points each) for 20% of the course grade and must be turned in on the assigned date.

D. MAJOR PROJECT OR FINAL EXAMINATION
Each student must select a research project on some facet of interpersonal evangelism or complete a take home final examination. Whichever is selected will count 50 points for 50% of the course grade.

1. The Research Project: This should be a 12 to 15 page paper double spaced and giving full credit to all sources following standard footnote or endnote guidelines (Slade, Form and Style, 11th Ed.). It will be due Tuesday, May 13, 2003. Some suggestions for projects include:
   a. Keep a journal with at least three entries per week of your regular efforts at witnessing and personal evangelism. Establish goals for growth and report your progress in a weekly summary and evaluation. Include observations from your readings. In your paper summarize the experience, lessons learned, and additional areas
needing work and exploration.

b. Develop your own model for training persons in witnessing and/or interpersonal evangelism. Describe how you might offer this either as a weekend workshop (specify hours required) or a multi—session training model for a local church.

c. Redevelop or adapt an existing model/program for training in personal evangelism to fit a more Wesleyan theological stance or a particular cultural context.

d. Write three case studies for dealing with problems and opportunities in Christian witnessing and personal evangelism. Include guidelines for using each: steps, suggestions, major issues, alternative actions or strategies, and recommended reading.

e. Become involved in a personal evangelism training program which involves contact with undiscipled people (local church visitation, Operation Appreciation, ICHTHUS counseling, etc.). Evaluate the program and your experience in light of class material and texts read.

2. The Final Examination: A take-home final examination will be available on Tuesday, May 13, 2003. It will consist of selecting five questions from a larger field and writing short essays (3 pages) on each drawing on materials covered in class and presented in the texts. The finished examination (typed, double-spaced) will be due in the ESJ Office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

E. GRADE FOR THE COURSE
   Equal to the total points earned out of 100.

IV. PROPOSED TOPICS AND SEQUENCE: Although we may vary slightly from the plan proposed, our intended course of study includes:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>FOCUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introductions, Orientation, General Communication Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dynamics of Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Implications of Theory for Christian Communication Strategies</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>The Importance of Prayer, Love, and Listening</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>The Dynamics of Christian Conversion</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>The Power and Purpose of Personal Testimony</td>
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</table>
7. Visiting Speaker -- Brian McLaren  
8. Evangelism Training Models (Gospel Presentation) 
9. Presenting the Gospel (Role Playing) 
10. Evangelism Training Models (Lifestyle Evangelism) 
11. Handling Objections and the Meaning of Assurance 
12. Evangelism with Children/Youth and Discipling 
13. Interpersonal Evangelism with Persons of Other Faiths 

V. LEADERSHIP OPTIONS:

A. STUDENTS IN MS625

Class leadership for exploring a biblical text for each class session will be the responsibility of students in MS625. For your information and preparation, note the following assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTIONS</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>TEXT</th>
<th>STUDENT LEADER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luke 5:27—32</td>
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<td>Luke 10:25—37</td>
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<td>John 4</td>
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<td>John 9</td>
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<td>John 16:5—15</td>
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<td>Acts 18:1—11</td>
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<td>Acts 19:1—10</td>
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<td>Acts 26</td>
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<td>Romans 10:1—17</td>
<td>6 (3/18)</td>
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<td>I Cor 9:19—23</td>
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<td>2 Cor 6</td>
<td>7 (3/25)</td>
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<td>I Thess 2:1—13</td>
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<td>2 Tim 2:14—26</td>
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<td>2 Tim 3:10—4:7</td>
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<td>Titus 3:3—9</td>
<td>9 (4/15)</td>
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<td>James 2:14—26</td>
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<td>I John 3:11—24</td>
<td>10 (4/22)</td>
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<td>OTHERS?</td>
<td>11 (4/29)</td>
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<td>13 (5/3)</td>
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B. STUDENTS IN ME 710
Leadership for evaluating a training model, leading a role playing situation, or reflecting on a case study will be led by students in ME710. These responsibilities will come later in the semester during sessions 8-13. Consult with the professor for guidance.

**Case Study:** Options include: (1) “A Seat Mate Opportunity,” (2) “Hospital Visitation,” (3) “Of Another Faith,” or one of your own.

Student___________ Option # _____ Session # ________________

Student___________ Option # _____ Session # ________________

**Role-Play:** Options include: (1) “Learning to Listen,” (2) “Sharing the Gospel,” and (3) “Church Visitation.”

Student___________ Option # _____ Session # _____

Student___________ Option # _____ Session # _____


Student___________ Option # _____ Session # _____

Student ____________Option # _____ Session # _____