

Erskine Theological Seminary
Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

PM 507C: Evangelism
February 16th, March 8th, April 5th, May 3rd
9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturdays
Spring 2008
Charleston, South Carolina

Toney C. Parks, D. Min..

Office Hours: Please call to schedule appointments.

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Course Description

This course is a study of the nature and practice of evangelism in the Christian Church. Attention is given to the Biblical basis of evangelism, the theology and historical development of evangelism, spiritual development principles in evangelism, and methods of developing evangelism as a part of the total mission of the congregation. *Required for M. Div. students. Three hours.*

This course is intended to be a practical study of the theory and practice of evangelism in the local church that gives students workable principles that will make them thoughtful and passionate evangelists and make their ministries more effective.

Course Objectives

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian church. As part of that mission, the Seminary offers courses in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. This course relates to these goals for that degree program:

1. The student will be able to present a full explanation for the gospel message, including an introduction, an organized outline of gospel content, attendant biblical references and illustration, a conclusion and a follow-up strategy
2. The student will gain a greater motivation and compassion for reaching the lost
3. The student will grow in personal confidence and courage for sharing the gospel
4. The student will learn to view his/her ministry in light of the Church's mission to worship, follow, bear witness to, and serve Jesus Christ
5. The student will learn methods by which to communicate the Bible's message through preaching and evangelism, so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today

In keeping with these goals and objectives, it is intended that by the end of the course term, students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical philosophy of evangelism that takes into account both the teaching of the Bible and the worldview of individuals.
2. Understand the process of conversion, including the Holy Spirit's role and our role
3. Demonstrate skill in diagnosing where people are spiritually.
4. Understand the content of the Gospel, and how to apply the Gospel both before and after conversion.
5. Understand evangelistic principles and develop a strategy for mobilizing the whole church in evangelism.
6. Model personal evangelism for a congregation by using their God-given gifts, background, training, and passions in sharing their faith.
7. Glorify God by enjoying the process of learning to build relationships, seeing people meet Jesus, and maturing them in their faith.
8. Use concepts that can be transferred to others through example, preaching, and training to help the church fulfill the Great Commission

Required Texts (*The Holy Bible is assumed as a required text in all classes*):

Required texts may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine from January 4, 2008.

Rainer, Thomas (1996) *Effective Evangelistic Churches: Successful Churches Reveal What Works and What Doesn't*, Broadman and Holman.

McIntosh, Gary & Martin, Glen (1992) *Finding Them, Keeping Them: Effective Strategies for Evangelism and Assimilation in the Local Church*, Broadman.

Coleman, Robert E. (1993) *Master Plan Of Evangelism*. Revell.

Course Requirements & Expectations

Attendance – Your presence at, preparation for, and participation in all class sessions are required for a passing grade. Each student, therefore, is expected to arrive on time, including following class breaks, and to attend all class meetings for their duration. In the event that an absence is necessary—for whatever reason, including pastoral duties, work, or family responsibilities—the student is responsible for all assignments and all work done in class. Absences in excess of three (3) hours, may limit one's final grade to no higher than a "B." Absences in excess of seven (7) hours will result in receiving no credit for the course. Any student who misses seven or more cumulative hours of class should contact the registrar in writing and withdraw from the course rather than fail it. Students who miss more than three hours of class are required to do extra work and are expected to take the initiative to secure the assignments from the professor. Failure to complete extra work by the final day of class will result in the reduction of one's final

course grade by one full letter grade.

Assignments – All assignments are due on the designated date. An absence does not negate this requirement unless prior arrangements have been made. Late work will be accepted up to one week after the assignment is due, but will receive a penalty of up to one letter grade. All make-up work is due by the last day of class. Written work should conform to Erskine Seminary's "Style and Form Standards for Master's Level Programs." Essential guidelines to assist in formatting papers are available from the professor. Do NOT submit work in folders; simply supply a cover/title sheet and staple pages (numbered!) together. Give careful attention to spelling, grammar, syntax, style, and form; these items are considered in grading. Proofread all papers before submission! Permission **may** be granted for one below average paper (< C) to be re-done one time to improve one's grade (limited to a maximum of a "B+"). This option does not exist for any papers turned in the final day of class.

Inclusive Language – The seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.

Other Seminary Policies – Students should familiarize themselves with, and abide by, policies regarding plagiarism, the payment of accounts, the granting of an "Incomplete," library privileges, etc. as set forth in the ETS Catalog & the Student Handbook. NOTE: Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a failing grade for the entire course with a notation of such in their permanent academic record!

NOTE: Once you have completed, signed, and submitted your registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **BINDING CONTRACT**, and your billing will be based upon this registration. If you decide not to take this class, you must complete a "drop/add" form with the appropriate signatures. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.**

Office Hours – Office hours are posted on office door, my schedule may change due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise. Therefore, if you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call to schedule an appointment.

Guidelines/Requirements for Assignments:

1). Chapter Reading Journal: You are to read "*The Master Plan of Evangelism*" and give a brief and concise summary/outline of each chapter in each book. Each chapter summary should be one page or less. This journal must demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the material discussed by the author. I expect you to use the necessary terms and vocabulary mentioned in the text to show your understanding of each chapter.

Please write your summary in your own words. You are not to copy a thought or concept directly from the book.

2). Master Plan for Evengelism: After reading each book assigned, you are to use the various strategies and concepts mentioned in the reading, and develop a Master Plan of Evangelism for your ministry. You are expected to use the various terms, strategies and principles mentioned in the reading. You are expected to develop a Master Plan to be presented and discussed during the last class period with your peers. You are welcome to use visual aide or handouts. Your project is to be 5-10 pages in length. This project is to be no more than 10-15 minutes. (No exception)

Content of your Master Plan should discuss the following points:

1. What specific model/s to you plan to use?
2. Give scriptural passages to support you evangelistic plan
3. Where and who is your target audience
4. What role will you and your members play in this Master Plan
5. Develop a plan/process with identifiable steps to reach un-churched people
6. After you find them, what are you plan to keep them?

3) Ministry Skills Demonstration - Students will be expected to integrate their ministerial skills by using scripture and material for lecture and reading material discussing and writing assignments. These skills will be observed by professor while students are interacting in small groups and class discussion. Students should demonstrate their progress in acquiring and honing some of the basic ministerial skills of evangelism such as, on-on-one witnessing, discipleship skills, accurate use of scripture during evangelistic witnessing, and the ability to develop and implement a Master Plan for Evangelism in the local church.

Course Grading

Attendance and appropriate, active participation in class are assumed for a passing grade. The absence of regular attendance and active participation will affect one's final grade. Otherwise, the final grade will be calculated on the standard seminary scale as follows:

- a. Attendance and Class Participation 10%
- b. Chapter Reading Journal 30% (10% for each book)
- c. Master Plan Project 50%
- d. Final Exam (Oral Presentation) 10%

All Late papers will be penalized one letter grade.

Class Schedule

02/16-Introduction to Class Participants & Course, Lectures –Jesus as he Evangelist

1. Lecture on the role of evangelism in the Book of Acts
2. Discuss scripture related to Discipleship and Evangelism
3. Lecture “Finding Them and Keeping Them” *Read before class*
4. Discuss Master Plan Assignment

03/8 Read “Effective Evangelistic Churches” Paper due at the beginning of class

1. Lecture “Effective Evangelistic Churches”
2. What makes a Church effective at evangelism?
3. Review effective evangelistic Church and Pastor

04/05 Read “The Master Plan of Evangelism” Papers due at the beginning of class

1. Chapter 1-8 Lecture and Discussion
2. Class activity (Practice On-on-One witnessing)
3. Review various ways and techniques of evangelism

05/03 Master Evangelistic Plan Presentation

Content of your Master Plan should discuss the following points:

1. What specific model/s to you plan to use?
2. Give scriptural passages to support you evangelistic plan
3. Where and who is your target audience
4. What role will you and your member play in this Master Plan
5. Develop a plan/process with identifiable steps to reach un-churched people
6. After you find them, how do you plan to keep them?

Class lectures and material may vary due to discussion and length of chapters. You are expected to read material on your own. Professor will also lecture from supplemental reading and biblical text as needed.

