



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

PM 507 CO

Evangelism

January: Saturday 01/8, 01/15, 01/22, 01, 29

9:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Toney C. Parks, D. Min.

Office Hours: Please call to schedule appointments.

Office (864) 379-6693; Cell (864) 350-8409; Home (864)-268-2199 before
10 p.m.

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[McCain Library](#) (toll free) 1-877-876-4348

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 regarding the importance of worship, and following, bearing witness to, and serving 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 skills 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 by 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):*

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Rainer, Thom S. *Effective Evangelistic Churches: Successful Churches Reveal What Works and What Doesn't*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996. (ISBN 0-8054-5402-0)

McIntosh, Gary & Glen Martin. *Finding Them, Keeping Them: Effective Strategies for Evangelism and Assimilation in the Local Church*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992. (ISBN 0-8054-6051-9)

Coleman, Robert E. *Master Plan Of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell of Baker Publishing Group, 1993, 2010. (ISBN 978-0-8007-8808-7)

Guidelines/Requirements for Assignments:

1) Theology and Philosophy of Evangelism Paper: You are to read *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. After reading you are to develop a theological understanding of evangelism and articulate your philosophy of evangelism in a 3 to 5 page concise summary of your readings. (Paper is due 01/15)

2) Successful Evangelistic Portrait: Identify a modern evangelical ministry that has embraced successfully evangelism as a ministry. Identify the ministry, its leader, and the components or practices that contribute to its success. (Paper due 01/22)

3) Master Plan for Evangelism: After reading the assigned books, you are to use the various strategies and concepts mentioned in the reading to develop a **master plan of evangelism** for your ministry. You are expected to use the various terms, strategies and principles mentioned in the reading. Your **master plan** is to be presented and discussed during the last class period with your peers. You are welcome to use power point presentations, or handouts. Your project is to be 7-10 pages in length. This project is to be no more than 10-15 minutes. (Paper due 01/29 [No exceptions])

*Content of your **master plan** should discuss the following points:*

1. What specific model/s do you plan to use?
2. Give Scriptural passages to support your 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 unchurched people.

6. After you find them, what is your plan to keep them?

4) Ministry Skills Demonstration: Students are expected to integrate their ministerial skills by using Scripture, materials from lectures, and required reading, and by using classroom discussions and writing assignments. The professor observes these skills while students are interacting in small groups and class discussions. Students should demonstrate their progress in acquiring and honing some of the basic ministerial skills of evangelism: one-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. Theology and Philosophy of Evangelism 30%
- c. Master Plan Project 30%
- d. Evangelistic Portrait 20%
- e. Final Exam (Oral Presentation) 10%

Course Schedule:

- 01/08 Introduction to Class, Participants, and Syllabus.
Lectures--Jesus as The 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
- 01/15 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
- 01/22 Read *The Master Plan of Evangelism*.

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

01/29 **Master Evangelistic Plan** Presentation

Content of your master plan should discuss the following points:

1. What specific model/s do you plan to use?
2. Give Scriptural passages to support your 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 unchurched people.
6. After you find them, how do you plan to keep them?

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES

Drop/Add/ and Course Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Language about God and Humanity:

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that

clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions:

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Incompletes:

The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy:

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences:

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students wishing to take a course that meets four times over the semester **must** attend

the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements:

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the "Style and Form Standards" (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and the integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either

within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography. In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

For details refer to the Erskine Seminary Handbook under the Honor Code.

NOTE: Under no circumstances will the professor accept a paper containing others' work, either downloaded from Internet sites or used from other students' papers. (In other words, the purpose of the assignment is for the student to reflect critically on the topic at hand and to articulate those reflections in writing.) If the student turns in such a paper to the professor, the grade is an automatic "F" or "0". As in scholarly writing, the student may quote from a reference work using proper citations. The student may also reference others' work in the student's own wording but must give proper credit by citing the original source. (See

Turabian for instructions on footnotes, parenthetical references, citations, reference lists, and bibliographies.)

If the student is a published author and chooses to cite from his/her copyrighted material, proper citations must be made as well. Not to do so is considered plagiarism.