

COS 523 Evangelism
Course of Study School of Ohio
Fall Term 2025

Meeting times: Sept 12-13 via Zoom, times below
Sept 15-Oct. 9 via Populi online, asynchronous
Oct 10-11 on MTSO campus, times below

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See syllabus on Populi for cell number

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God.

Course Objectives:

As an outcome of this course, students will be able to:

1. Reflect on and articulate the meaning of the Gospel and an understanding of the Church as bearers of God's Word to the world.
2. Ground a theology of evangelism in scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
3. Interpret of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
4. Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by the congregation.

Required Texts:

Henry Knight & F. Douglas Powe , *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*, Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006.

Penner, Myron Bradley, *The End of Apologetics: Christian Witness in a Post-Modern Context*, Baker Academic, 2013.

Stone, Bryan, *Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practices of Christian Witness*, Brazos Press, 2007.

Supplemental/Optional Texts:

Arias, Mortimer, *Announcing the Reign of God*, Wipf and Stock, 2001.

Bruggemann, Walter, *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism*, Abingdon Press, 2011.

Fox, Eddie and George Morris, *Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation*, Discipleship Resources, 2003.

Park, Joon-Sik. "Evangelism and the Practice of Hospitality." In *Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit*, ed. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Powe, Doug, *New Wine and New Wineskins: How African American Congregations Can Reach New Generations*, Abingdon Press, 2012.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation
 - a. Students are expected to attend all Zoom and on-campus sessions. Any exceptions must be addressed in advance.
 - b. A key element of all learning, and especially online learning, is collaboration. To that end, students are expected to participate regularly in all aspects of the class by both their attendance and verbal engagement. Please plan to make 2 to 3 substantive comments via Populi during each week of online engagement.
2. Critical Assessment: Each student will write a 2 page (double spaced) paper using one page to address each of the following prompts:
 - a. Give an example where you have seen evangelism done well with a focus on why you see it as being done well.
 - b. Give an example where you have seen evangelism done poorly with a focus on why you see it as having been done poorly.

3. Book Review: Each student will write a critical book review on Bryan Stone's book, *Evangelism after Christendom*. This paper is to be not more than 1500 words nor less than 1200 words. The paper is to focus on the following question: in what ways does Stone's book challenge popular 21st century conceptions of evangelism? The paper is to include a conclusion summarizing how the student thinks those challenges would require us to rethink how we do evangelism. **Due 10/9**
4. Group presentation or enactment: Students, during the initial Zoom weekend, will be assigned to a small group (2-4 students) and these students will make a presentation to the class during our on campus weekend. Topics, formats, etc will be discussed during the Zoom sessions. Feel free to make suggestions as to how a particular topic might be handled in a group presentation format so that it fosters better understanding of one or more key components of evangelistic outreach.
5. Final Paper: Each student will write a paper of not more than 2500 words addressing any of the following prompts (I am also open to suggestions about other prompts you might want to write on, particularly in light of your own ministries):
 - a. In what ways must evangelism change in order to address 21st century persons where they are?
 - b. Explore the relative merits of evangelism as proclamation vs the merits of evangelism as establishment of relationships.
 - c. Persons come to interaction with us with a whole host of life experiences and beliefs. To what extent must we convince them to embrace what we have come to see as the truth as part of their conversion process?
 - d. What are the three biggest cultural challenges to contemporary evangelistic outreach?
 - e. Looking at d) differently, what are the three biggest opportunities for contemporary evangelism that arise out of our current cultural milieu?
 - f. People are situated all across of spectrum from very introverted to very extroverted. Assuming evangelistic outreach is a non-negotiable obligation of Christian life, how might we encourage the very introverted to live into those obligations?

Due—10/25

Please note:

All written assignments are to be in 12 point font and double spaced. You may use the style manual of your preference, just be consistent. Either footnotes or endnotes are acceptable, a though particular number of citations is required as part of the assignment.

For presentations, all persons in the group are to participate in the presentation, and such participation is taken to affirm that all members participated in roughly equal ways to develop the final product. If any special technology tools will be needed for your presentation, please advise the professor no later than the third online session.

Grade determination:

Assignment 1, participation	10%
Assignment 2, critical assessment	10% (pass/fail, you get all points or none)
Assignment 3, book review	20%
Assignment 4, presentation	25%
Assignment 5, final paper	35%
Total	100%

Schedule:**Precourse work:**

Read as much as you can

Prepare the critical assignment (number 2 above) so we can discuss

Zoom, Sept. 12, 7 to 9pm

Syllabus Review and clarify assignments

Introductions

Review of key definitions and questions

Zoom, Sept. 13, 9 to 11am

Carry over of any open issues from last night
Students read and lead discussion of their essays from the critical assignment
(number 2 above)
Introduce themes to be discussed in coming weeks

Online, Sept. 15-20

Read: Knight and Powe
YouTube: Mini Lecture
Discuss: See prompts in Populi

Online, Sept. 22-27

Read: Stone, first half
YouTube: Mini Lecture
Discuss: See prompts in Populi

Online, Sept. 29-Oct. 4

Read: Stone, second half
YouTube: Mini Lecture
Discuss: See prompts in Populi

Online, Oct. 5-Oct. 9

Read: Penner
YouTube: Mini Lecture
Discuss: See prompts in Populi
Due by 10/9: Book review (item 3 in course requirements)

On campus, Oct. 10, 3:30 to 6pm

Cultural Assessment—Evangelism in the contemporary world, challenges
and opportunities
Presentations and Discussions

On campus, Oct. 10, 7 to 9pm

Presentations and Discussions

On campus, Oct. 11, 8 to 11am

Into the future: Evangelism in the brave new world
Presentations and Discussions

On campus, Oct. 11, 1 to 3:15pm

Presentations and Discussions

Final Paper Due—Oct. 25, midnight local time.

COSSO Academic Honor Policy

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

COSSO Attendance Policy

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session.

Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school.

A student missing 20% or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

Students attending online are required to show their faces the entire class time in order to be considered present, unless internet bandwidth issues or emergency circumstances (e.g., a power outage) necessitate turning off one's camera or calling in to class by phone. You are expected to attend class as you would in a face-to-face classroom (e.g, not driving). During asynchronous class time, faculty may monitor time used in posting and responding to colleagues to track your participation.

Cancellation and Withdrawal: Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

No Shows: Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.