

COS 523 Evangelism
Course of Study School of Ohio
Fall Term 2020

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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:

Flemming, Dean. *Recovering the Full Mission of God: A Biblical Perspective on Being, Doing and Telling*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2013.
Jones, E. Stanley. *The Christ of the Indian Road*. New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap, 1925.
Knight, Henry H. and F. Douglas Powe. *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TEXT:

Peace, Richard. *Holy Conversation: Talking about God in Everyday Life*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (to be posted on Populi):

Arias, Mortimer. "That the World May Believe." *International Review of Mission* 65, no. 257 (1976): 13–26.
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.
Reese, Martha Grace. *Unbinding the Gospel*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2006 (some chapters).

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Arias, Mortimer. *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and Subversive Memory of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.
Fox, H. Eddie and George E. Morris. *Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1996.
Hooker, Morna D. *Not Ashamed of the Gospel: New Testament Interpretations of the Death of Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Newbiggin, Lesslie. *Proper Confidence*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Swanson, Roger K. and Shirley F. Clement. *The Faith-Sharing Congregation: Developing a Strategy for the Congregation as Evangelist*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1996.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) *Class Attendance and Participation:*

- Attendance is expected in all Zoom sessions. See the *Student Handbook* for the COS attendance policy.
- Much of the value of this course will come from interaction among the participants. Students are thus to prepare for each session by carefully reading assigned texts, and to take an active part in class discussions.

(2) *Weekly Online Participation and Response:*

- Students are expected to be fully present online.

Weekly online participation and response is an essential and vital aspect of learning. In this fully-online format, the student's role requires more active and self-disciplined participation. Online participation may include: turning in an assignment, posting an initial response and subsequent postings to the discussion board from Monday through Thursday, and other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. (See **Populi** each week for the assignment and online activity.) If no student response occurs during a week of the term, the student is considered absent. Lurking (reading only) does not earn credit, nor does it contribute to the class learning and community.

- It is important to manage your time.

Because online courses move quickly and require self-discipline, it is important to efficiently manage time. It would include not waiting until the last minute to turn in assignments or responses. Technology is not fail-proof; you would need to allow time for unforeseen problems.

(3) *Critical Book Reviews:*

Students are required to complete **two book reviews (on E. Stanley Jones and Dean Flemming) by Oct. 2**, critically reflecting on the text for implications for the understanding and practice of evangelism. (Some books did not use gender-inclusive language as theirs was an age not yet sensitive to the issue.) Each review is to be **2 pages (double-spaced) in length**; and to use parenthetical citations, if necessary, providing only page numbers and not the title of the book—e.g., (12) or (73). Name and save the reviews as “Review1(Last Name)” and “Review2(Last Name).”

The following is a quote from "How to Write a Book Review" by Joel Green, which I believe provides helpful guidelines:

“First, the review should indicate a thorough knowledge of the book as a whole, read on its own terms. . . . with an eye to several important questions, including: What is the book’s fundamental aim? Central theme(s)? Presuppositions? Method(s)? Second, the review should engage the book critically and personally. . . . Is its argument cogent? How has the reading of this book shaped you? . . . Whenever possible, you should situate your critique of the book within the larger discussion of the subject [that is, evangelism].”

Given its limited length, your review is to be **succinct** and **to the point**. You would thus need to be **selective** of the themes to critically reflect on. What I hope to see are indications of **your thorough reading of the text** and of **your critical engagement with it**. Also, you are to briefly share how the text has shaped and affected your own understanding and practice of evangelism.

(4) *Holy Conversation on Christian Faith:*

Each student will belong to a group (of 4 or 5) and engage in holy conversation on Zoom, based on chapters of ***Holy Conversation*** by Richard Peace. Students are to complete the reading of the assigned chapter prior to the conversation. They are, however, not to discuss the chapter but to engage in an evangelistic conversation with their group members.

- Each student will guide and moderate a holy conversation for 30 minutes. The designated leader will initiate the conversation by articulating (in around 200 words) what she or he understands to be the core concepts and central focuses of the assigned chapter. This initial reflection is to be posted on Populi at least 12 hours prior to the time of “holy conversation.”
- **A one-page reflection** (1.5-spaced) on the whole experience of holy conversation is due on Oct. 23.

(5) *Integrative Paper:*

A carefully integrated paper of 2,000 words (1.5-spaced) **not counting** notes and bibliography is due on Oct. 31. *Students are to engage various aspects of the course learning, including the readings, in an integrative way.*

- The focus of **the first part** (1,400–1,500 words) is on constructing *one’s own understanding of evangelism, which is biblically and theologically grounded*. Students are to wrestle with the understanding of the gospel and with the issues of motivation and substance of evangelism, reflecting on how their own view of the gospel might shape the way it is communicated.
- **The second part** (500–600 words) is to be devoted to developing an integral program of evangelism based upon one’s freshly constructed theology of evangelism. This part is to include a brief analysis of the context (rural, urban, suburban, etc.) in which their church is to engage in evangelistic ministry.

Since the length of your paper is limited, it needs to be succinct, coherent, and clearly organized.

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Due on Oct. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Review of Jones, <i>Christ of the Indian Road</i> (double-spaced) • Critical Review of Flemming, <i>Recovering the Full Mission of God</i> (double-spaced) • Reading of Peace, <i>Holy Conversation</i> (Intro. & Chs. 1-3)
Due on Oct. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of Park, “Evangelism and the Practice of Hospitality” • Reading of Arias, “That the World May Believe”
Due on Oct. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of Knight and Powe, <i>Transforming Evangelism</i>
Due on Oct. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of Reese, <i>Unbinding the Gospel</i> • A one-page reflection (1.5-spaced)
Due on Oct. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Integrative Paper (1.5-spaced)

WRITTEN WORK:

All written work must be typed with 12-point font. It will be evaluated on the basis of (1) clarity of the writing, (2) critical interaction with the text, and (3) the student’s own integrative reflection. There will be **a penalty for late papers** commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:

All students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender-neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

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 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 actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

EVALUATION:

- 20% Class Attendance and Contribution
- 20% Online Assignments
- 30% Critical Book Reviews (15% x 2)
- 5% Reflection on Holy Conversation
- 25% Final Integrative Paper

GRADING STANDARDS:

- A+ (97%), A (93%), A- (90%):
Outstanding work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and excellence in thinking and performance as well as depth of insight.
- B+ (87%), B (83%), B- (80%):
Good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates good mastery of the course content.
- C+ to C-:
Satisfactory work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in an acceptable manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery.
- D+ to D-:
Unsatisfactory work that reflects poor thinking and performance as well as lack of clear comprehension and understanding of the subject.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Zoom Sessions

Fri., Oct. 2, 7–9 pm (1)		
Topics	Required Readings	Written Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Course • Definitions of Evangelism • Theological Foundations • The Gospel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of Peace, <i>Holy Conversation</i> (Intro. & Chs. 1–3 available at https://books.google.com/books?id=FV0cVNtupNUC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Review of Jones, <i>Christ of Indian Road</i> (2 pages, double spaced) • Critical Review of Flemming, <i>Recovering the Full Mission of God</i> (2 pages, double spaced)
Sat., Oct. 3, 8:30–10:30 am (2)		
Topics	Required Readings	Written Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology and Ministry of Evangelism in E. Stanley Jones • Evangelism as “Holy Conversation” 		
Fri., Oct. 9, 7–9 pm (3)		
Topics	Required Readings	Written Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelism and Hospitality • Evangelism and Missional Context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of Park, “Evangelism and the Practice of Hospitality” • Reading of Arias, “That the World May Believe” (posted on Populi) 	
Sat., Oct. 10, 8:30–10:30 am (4)		
Topics	Required Readings	Written Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblical Foundations • Biblical Perspective on Integral Evangelism: Being, Doing, and Telling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of Flemming, <i>Recovering the Full Mission of God</i> 	

Fri., Oct. 23, 7–9 pm (5)		
Topics	Required Readings	Written Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wesleyan Understanding of Evangelism Faith-Sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading of Knight and Powe, <i>Transforming Evangelism</i> 	

Sat., Oct. 24, 8:30–10:30 am (6)		
Topics	Required Readings	Written Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evangelism and the Renewal of the Church Missional Church Place of Evangelism within the Mission of the Church Conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading of Reese, <i>Unbinding the Gospel</i> (posted on Populi) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-page reflection (1.5-spaced) on “Holy Conversation”

Asynchronous Work

Mon., Oct. 5–Thurs., Oct. 8 (Week 1)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC Webinar #1, “Reclaiming Evangelism” (http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/wcc-reclaiming-evangelism) 	See Populi for detailed instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Conversation (1)— Peace, <i>Holy Conversation</i> (Chs. 4 & 5) 	

Mon., Oct. 12–Thurs., Oct. 15 (Week 2)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC Webinar #2, “Evangelizing Each Other” (http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/wcc-webinar-2-evangelizing-each-other) 	See Populi for detailed instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Conversation (2)— Peace, <i>Holy Conversation</i> (Chs. 6 & 7) 	

Mon., Oct. 19–Thurs., Oct. 22 (Week 3)	
WCC Webinar #6, “Evangelism & the Context of Small Congregations” (http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/wcc6-evangelism-and-the-context-of-small-congregations)	See Populi for detailed instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Conversation (3)— Peace, <i>Holy Conversation</i> (Chs. 10 & 11) 	

Selected Bibliography

- Abraham, William J. *The Logic of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1991.
- Brueggemann, Walter A. *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism: Living in a Three-Storeyed Universe*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- Costas, Orlando E. *Liberating News: A Theology of Contextual Evangelization*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Goheen, Michael W. *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.
- Guder, Darrell L. *The Incarnation and the Church's Witness*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.
- Jackson, Jack. *Offering Christ: John Wesley's Evangelistic Vision*. Nashville: Kingswood, 2017.
- Johnson, Ben Campbell. *Speaking of God: Evangelism as Initial Spiritual Guide*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991.
- Jones, E. Stanley. *Conversion*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1957; rpt., 1992.
- Klaiber, Walter. *Call and Response: Biblical Foundations of a Theology of Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.
- Logan, James C. *How Great a Flame: The Wesleyan Revival Then and Now*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2005.
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- Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Scottdale, PA: Herald, 2001.
- Park, Joon-Sik. "Missionary Theology of D. T. Niles." *International Bulletin of Mission Research* 44, no. 3 (July 2020): 233–47.
- Park, Joon-Sik. "Victory Through Surrender: E. Stanley Jones's Understanding of Conversion." In *E. Stanley Jones and Sharing the Good News in a Pluralistic Society*, ed. Douglas Powe and Jack Jackson. Nashville: Wesley's Foundry Books/GBHEM, 2018.
- Pope Francis. *The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium*. New York: Image, 2014.
- Pope John Paul II. *On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate: Redemptoris Missio*. Washington, D.C.: USCC, 1990.
- Sider, Ronald J. *Good News and Good Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Wesley, John. "Salvation by Faith (Sermon 1–1738); "Original Sin (Sermon 44–1759); and "The New Birth (Sermon 45–1760).