

**UNITED METHODIST COURSE OF STUDY:
Course of Study School of Ohio**

**COS 523 – Evangelism
Fall 2024**

Meeting Dates: **VIRTUAL (On Zoom)– September 13-14.**
 ONLINE – September 16 – October 10.
 IN-PERSON – October 11-12.

Instructor: **Dr. Scott T. Kisker**
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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

II. 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 the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
4. Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by a congregation.

III. REQUIRED READINGS:

Mortimer Arias, *Announcing the Reign of God* (ISBN:978-1579105631)
Walter Bruggemann, *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism* (ISBN:978-0687412334)
Henry Knight & F. Douglas Powe, *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith* (ISBN: 978-0881774856)

IV. PREWORK:

1. Write a 500 word (2 pages, double spaced) testimony about how you came to Christ for the first time. This is not your call story. See instructions under section VI.1 of the syllabus.
2. Read the books assigned for the class.

V. SCHEDULE

SESSION 1 –VIRTUAL (Zoom): September 13, 7 pm – 9 pm ET: Introduction

Introduction: Syllabus and Testimony

Testimonies:

Bible Study: Genesis 1:1-5

Discuss: Brueggemann, Intro-Ch 1

Lecture: “Mission, Eschatology, and Evangelism”

SESSION 2 – VIRTUAL (Zoom): September 14, 9 am – 11 am EST

Testimonies:

Bible Study: Genesis 18:1-15; 1 Kings 17:1-24; 2 Kings 5:1-19.

Discuss: Brueggemann, Ch 2-Conclusion

Lecture: “‘Evangelize’ in the Hebrew Scriptures”

SESSION 3 – ONLINE (Sept 16-21)

Bible Study: Read Mark 1:9-15. What is the content of the Gospel in this passage and when have you personally experienced the Kingdom of God? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Reading: Arias, Intro-Ch 5

Lecture 1: “‘Evangelize’ in in the Greek Scriptures”

Lecture 2: “‘Evangelize’ in Matthew and Mark”

Discuss: How does the advent of the Kingdom of God change our understanding of evangelism according to Arias. How are the proclamation of the Kingdom and presence of the kingdom related? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

SESSION 4 – ONLINE (Sept 23-28)

Bible Study: Read the other “Great Co-missions” by Jesus in the Gospels (Luke 24:47-48; Mark 16:15-18; John 20:21-23). What is the mission of the Church according to these passages? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Lecture 1: “Evangelism in John and Paul”

Reading: Arias, Ch. 6 – Conclusions.

Discuss 1: What does Arias mean by the “ministry of denunciation” (92) as part of evangelism. In what ways does your church community exercise this ministry? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Watch: *Cold Comfort Farm* Clip

Discuss 2: What in this portrait of proclamation is the relationship between judgment and gospel? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Lecture 2: “Love, Justice and Judgment”

SESSION 5 – ONLINE (Sept 30-Oct 5)

Discuss 1: In many communion liturgies, the people of God proclaim the mystery of faith, “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again,” What does that third phrase mean to you? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Lecture: “Eschatology and Mission”

Reading: Knight & Powe, Entire Book.

Discuss 2: Given Knight & Powe’s argument, what would it mean for your church community in its context to begin to evangelize Wesleyan-ly? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Assignment: **Theoretical Paper**. Due **Saturday** at Midnight.

SESSION 6 – ONLINE (Oct 7 - 10)

Bible Study: Read Acts 16:16-24 and Acts 17:16-34. What is the relationship between the Gospel and Culture? How does this affect evangelism? Post in 250 words or less by Tuesday at midnight. Respond to one other posting by Thursday at Midnight.

Lecture: “Cultural Context”

Assignment: **Final Project Draft**. Due **Thursday**, Oct 10 at Midnight

SESSION 7 – IN PERSON: Oct 11, 3:30-6

Testimonies:

Presentations:

SESSION 8 – IN PERSON: Oct 11, 7-9pm EST

Testimonies:

Presentations:

SESSION 9 – IN PERSON: Oct 12, 8- 11am

Testimonies:

Presentations:

SESSION 10 – IN PERSON: Oct 12, 1-3:15pm

Testimonies:

Presentations:

Assignment: Final Project – **Due Saturday, Oct 13 at midnight.**

VI. METHOD OF DETERMINING GRADE:

1. Written Testimony

Each student will write a 500 word testimony answering the question: “How and through whom did God work, that I am a Christian?” This is not your “call story.” You must have met Jesus and decided to allow him to be part of your life, before he called you. Your “call story” should not be part of this testimony.

2. Theoretical Paper (1500 word, 5-6 pages, double-spaced)

Using the readings in the course, students will upload this paper by the Wednesday of the week it is due. This paper must answer the following questions (approximately 2 pages per question):

What is the mission?

What is the message?

What is evangelism?

3. Final Project

Option 1: Student will write a 2000 – 2500 word (8-10 pages, double-spaced) paper analyzing a specific Christian community and its larger context. The student will then develop a plan for that Christian community to bring the Gospel to its context. Paper should be properly footnoted with resources listed.

Option 2: Student will create an evangelistic event, intended for the particular community about which the student has done contextual observations. The event may include a sermon, drama,

visual presentation, etc. The only limits are your creativity. Accompanying what the student has created should be a 1200 – 1500 word (4-5 pages, double-spaced) paper explaining the contextual nature of the event, its implementation, and the theology behind the event. Be sure to clearly state how this event is “evangelism.” Paper should be properly footnoted with resources listed.

VII. GRADE CALCULATION

The grade will be calculated in the following way:

Testimony (pass/fail)	15%
Theoretical Paper	35%
Final Project	35%
Discussion Forums	15%
Total	100%

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.)

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.