Church and Evangelism: Towards Building a New Relationship

Course Outline

This course will offer historical, biblical and theological foundations to the ministry and practice of evangelism in order that church leaders can exercise this ministry in their ministry setting.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the historical, biblical and theological foundations of evangelism.
2. To understand the ministry of evangelism within the context of the church today.
3. To develop a practical understanding of the ministry of evangelism with the goal of preparing the student for this ministry in their ministry setting.

Course Outcomes

This course will provide a framework in which to exercise the ministry within a parish context. Students successfully completing the course will be able to accomplish the following:

- assess the state of the ministry of evangelism within their congregation by implementing an evangelism audit. [Class 12]
- Establish a framework for evangelism which empowers lay and clergy with tools for the exercise of this ministry and to create a church culture in which evangelism is a valued ministry. [Final paper] Finally the student will be able to
- create an evangelism plan for their ministry context which has practical objectives and outcomes. [Class 12]

Course Requirements

Attendance and in-class participation which reflects an understanding of the assigned readings as well as completion of all assignments.

Course Assignments

2. Short Reflection Paper (5 Pages) on the student’s experience of evangelism with some critical reflection from the assigned readings.
3. Final Paper (10-15 pages) integrating the students’ understanding of the history, theology and biblical perspective of evangelism in a manner which works towards a practical application of the ministry of evangelism including a framework for evangelism and attention to a church’s culture.

**Course Evaluation**

1. 10% Class Participation
2. 20% Weekly Reflection
3. 30% Short Reflection Paper
4. 40% Final Paper
Course Outline

September 26th (9am to 2pm)

Week#1 What is the Church?
- Course overview
- Historical, Biblical and Functional Exploration
- Epochs of Christianity

*Required Readings:* Bosch, Chapter 5, p. 181-189.

**What is Evangelism?**
- Your Personal Journey
- Definition thereof
- Intentional vs. Dimensional
- Assumptions and Misassumptions

*Required Reading:* Bosch, p. 368-373 and 411-420

*Optional Reading:* Abraham, Chapter 1. P. 1-16.


**Context of the Church Today.**
- Internal versus External Context
- How church relates to culture
- The Relationship Between the Church and other Religions.

*Required Reading:* Abraham, Chapter 10, 209-233,


*Journal Reflection:* Acts 3 to 5.

October 3rd (9am to 2pm)

Week #2 A History of Evangelism – Part I
- During the Early Church
- From the Early Church to the Reformation
- During the Reformation
- *Required Reading:* Bosch 243-248.
- *Optional Reading:* Bevans and Schroeder chapter 1, p. 7-31, p. 73-83, p. 92-98 and138-140.

**A History of Evangelism – Part II**
- As an offshoot of Colonialism
- The Missionary Enterprise
- The North American Experience
- The State of Evangelism Today

**Required Readings:** Bosch 274-284, 302-339.

**Journal Reflection:** Acts 9:32 to 11.

**Towards a Theology of Evangelism**
- How Evangelism Relates to Mission
- Towards a Constructive Understanding (18 Attributes)
- The Biblical Foundation
- Missio Dei

**Required Readings:** Bosch, chapter 1, p. 15-55.

**Optional Readings:** Bosch, chapters 2 to 5 optional, 389-393 409-420.
Abraham, chapter 2, p. 17-35.

**Journal Reflection:** Acts 12 to 14.

**October 17th (9am to 2pm)**

**Week #3 Movements in Evangelism Today**
- Megachurch
- Teleevangelism
- Church Growth Movement
- Parachurch Organizations
- Fresh Expressions
- Missional Church Movement
- Mainline Churches

**Required Readings:** Abraham, chapter 4, 70-91.

**Optional Readings:** Bevans and Schroeder, 265-285

**Journal Reflection:** Acts 15 to 17.

**Missional Church Movement**
- History
- Practical Applications
- Limitations
- Contributions
- Moving Forward


**Journal Reflection:** Acts 18 to 20.

**The Role of Demographics and Marketing**
- Reginald Bibbey
- Relationship with Diocese and the Wider Church.
- Marketing Audit
- As Related to the Missional Church Movement

**Required Readings:** Read the last two issues of your church newspaper publication.

**Optional Reading:** Bibby, p. 7-92.

**Journal Reflection:** Acts 21 & 22.
October 24th (9am to 2pm)

Week #4 Mutual Self Mediation and the Role of Language
- Longergan
- Postmodernism
- Postliberalism
- Proclamation

Stone, Chapter 7, p. 175-221.


**Practical Tools**
- Back to Church Sunday
- The Web
- Fresh Expressions
- Relationship with the Wider Community
- Social Media
- Use of Context

Required Readings: Do an internet search of the above topics and bring your findings to class.


**What Next?**
- Evangelism Audit
- Setting the Framework within your ministry context
- The Role of Preaching and Teaching
- Creating an Evangelism Plan

**Required Texts**

William Abraham: *The Logic of Evangelism.*
Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk, *The Missional Leader.*

**Optional Texts**


**Course Policies:**

Policies for the course are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Trinity College Student Handbook.*

**Late Assignment Policy:** 3% penalty per day without an extension or note from doctor.

**Completion of Course Work:** All work must be completed for a grade to be assigned. An SDF request form must be completed if the work is not completed by the end of term.

**Style Guidelines for Papers:** see *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian.

**Attendance:** Is Mandatory.

**Inclusive Language:** Is Mandatory.

**Email Assignments:** Papers and assignments are to be submitted in hardcopy on the day of the assignment and will not be accepted by email without prior permission.

**Plagiarism Policy:** See *TST Basic Degree Handbook.*

**Consultation:** Please feel free to consult the instructor, preferably by email.