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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help prepare you to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5). The class will explore the doctrines, lifestyle, and methods necessary for biblical evangelism.

Course Topics

- To understand the biblical doctrine of evangelism.
- To explore the pastor/evangelist’s piety and character.
- To help equip the pastor/evangelist for pulpit evangelism.
- To help equip the pastor/evangelist for personal evangelism.
- To examine strategies for congregational evangelism.
- To develop responses to common objections to the gospel.

Required Texts

The Bible

Devries, Brian A. *You Will Be My Witnesses: Theology for God’s Church Serving in God’s Mission*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2024.

Kuiper, R.B., *God-Centred Evangelism: A Presentation of the Scriptural Theology of Evangelism*. Banner of Truth, 2018

Macleod, Donald. *Compel Them to Come In: Calvinism and the Free Offer of the Gospel*. Christian Focus, 2020.

Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*. Crossway, 2014.

The Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechism

Recommended Texts

Beeke, Joel R. *Puritan Evangelism: A Biblical Approach*. Reformation Heritage Books, 2012.

Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*. Crossway, 2017.

Irving, David T. *Devote Yourself to Prayer*. Reformation Heritage Books, 2023.

Kuiper, R.B. *God-Centered Evangelism*. Banner of Truth, 2018.

Newman, Randy. *Mere Evangelism: 10 Insights from C.S. Lewis to Help You Share Your Faith*. The Good Book Company, 2021.

Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did*. Kregel, 2017.

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Course Requirements

1. Reflection Papers (40% of final grade): You will write a reflection *God-Centered Evangelism* (**due February 20**), *Compel Them to Come In* (**due March 7**), and *Evangelism* (**due March 21**), and *You Will Be My Witnesses* (**due May 1**). No title page is necessary. Papers should be 1.5 spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, Times New Roman 12-point font, with name and date in the upper right-hand corner. Include the word count at the end of your paper. We will not accept papers that exceed the word count. See the due date extension policy below.

In your paper, devote a single brief paragraph to summarizing the contents of the book. The remainder of your paper will be spent identifying takeaways that will contribute to your understanding of the doctrine of evangelism and your commitment to doing the work of evangelist.

2. Personal Evangelism Report (25% of final grade): The best way to learn how to evangelize is to evangelize. There is no substitute for hands-on experience. Therefore, each student will pursue six different individuals with the truth of the gospel, and then record their experience in a "Personal Evangelism Report." The Report will consist of six entries, each about three hundred words that describes the conversation: "How did it occur? What were the objections and responses to Christ's gospel? Were you confident in the conversation? What was difficult about it?" The "Personal Evangelism Report" must be completed **by 11:59 pm, May 2**.

3. Memorization Final Exam (20% of final grade): You will memorize the following eight scripture passages: Isaiah 53:4-6, John 14:6, John 17:3, Acts 16:31, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:2, Ephesians 2:1, Ephesians 2:8-10.

4. Reading Report (15% of final grade). All reading materials should be read in their entirety. You will indicate the percentage of the reading completed **by 11:59 pm, May 1**, by completing the "Reading Report" assignment in Canvas. The assignment consists of one question asking you to indicate the total percentage of reading completed.

Additional Class Rules and Information

1. Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance is taken at each class. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the TA in advance. Each unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by a full letter grade.

2. All written work must be posted on Canvas in pdf format by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the due date. **Do not e-mail your papers to the TA or instructors.**

3. Due date extension policy. There will be no extensions granted for any assignments. Any late submissions will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per day late.

4. Grading Scale:

97-100% A

94-96% A-

91-93% B+

88-90% B

86-87% B-

83-85% C+

80-82% C

78-79% C-

75-77% D+

72-74% D

70-71% D-

0-69% F

5. Etiquette. Gentlemen may not wear caps or hats in the classroom.

6. Electronic Devices. Unless you are joining the class by Zoom, computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted.

7. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester. You are expected to keep up with syllabus revisions. The current syllabus will be posted on Canvas. You will be notified through Canvas if there is a change to the syllabus. Late work because an out of date syllabus was consulted will not be excused.

8. Office hours (Wingard). Monday-Thursday by appointment or whenever the door is open. If you have a personal or family emergency, I am available 24x7 by cell phone.

| <u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i> | | <u>Rubric</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None | <u>Mini-Justification</u> |
|---|---|---|--|
| Articulation (oral & written) | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Students will learn to articulate clearly the Christian gospel. |
| Scripture | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong | Students will learn the biblical foundations of evangelism and memorize scriptures essential to work of evangelism. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Course is practical in focus, but the study of the Bible and Reformed theology are indispensable to shaping faithful evangelism in the Reformed tradition. |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification. | Strong | Holiness of life is indispensable to the work of the evangelist. The character of an evangelist will be explored. |
| Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Moderate | Students will be able to recognize and respond to common objections to the Christian faith. |
| Winsomely Reformed | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a | Strong | The ability to evangelize with grace and compassion, as well as biblical conviction is essential. |

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| | truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | | |
| Pastoral Ministry | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Moderate | Pastors must provide a church leadership structure that commends the faith to unbelievers. |