

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650

Spring 2020 / PT5637
PERSONAL EVANGELISM
Professor: Dr. Josh Carmichael
Credit hours: 2

Cell Phone: 334-507-6300
jvcarmichael@gmail.com
Montgomery Campus
Thursdays, 7:30-9:30PM

COURSE PURPOSE

This course provides training in personal evangelism introducing students to various styles under special supervision.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to present a full explanation of the Gospel message, including an introduction, an organized outline of Gospel content, attendant biblical references and illustrations, a conclusion and a follow-up strategy.
2. The student will be exposed to various models of church evangelism.
3. The student will learn how to present his personal testimony and to help others do the same.
4. The student will learn how to build bridges to non-Christians as a means to proclaiming the Gospel.
5. The student will learn how to handle objections and the people who make them.
6. The student will learn the importance of prayer in any evangelistic endeavor.
7. The student will be able to diagnose some of the cultural barriers that make Gospel presentation difficult today and give answers as to how to overcome these barriers.

Required Texts:

C. John Miller, *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church*

(Select any two from the list below [that you have not read] for Book critiques.)

1. Packer, J. I., *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*
2. Koukl, Gregory, *Tactics*
3. Coleman, Robert E., *The Master Plan of Evangelism 2nd ed.*
4. Kennedy, D. James, *Evangelism Explosion (3rd or 4th ed.)*
5. Hession, Roy, *The Calvary Road*
6. Dever, Mark, *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*
7. Miller, C. John, *A Faith Worth Sharing: a lifetime of conversations about Christ*
8. Baker, III, Allen M. *Revival Prayer: A Needed paradigm Shift in Today's Church*
9. Metzger, Will, *Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person*
10. Spurgeon, Charles, *The Soul Winner*
11. Coleman, Robert E., *The Master Plan of Evangelism 2nd ed.*

1. **Prayer:** Select six people within your relational network who are not disciples of Jesus and pray for them regularly during the semester, asking God to provide an opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

2. Interview with a non-Christian/un-churched person paper

Conduct an interview with an unbelieving and/or un-churched friend, neighbor, relative or stranger. Describe the individual, but names are neither necessary nor preferred. Explain clearly to the individual that this is simply a 10-15 minute interview and is a requirement for one of your seminary classes. All answers are voluntary and confidential, although you must write a brief paper regarding your experience and answers given in the interview. Please describe **your reaction** to the interview. Approach the interview with sensitivity, openness and a gracious spirit. The use of Internet conversations is not permitted. (I Peter 3:15)

Some suggested questions to be asked (**ask at least 6**) and answered are:

- 1) How would you define God?
- 2) Can a person know God? (How?)
- 3) Who was/is Jesus Christ?
- 4) What is the biggest problem, in your opinion, facing humankind today?
- 5) What is (how do you define) sin?
- 6) How do you feel about the church (and/or Christianity) and why do you feel this way?
- 7) How would you define the concept of salvation?
- 8) Do you think that there is only **one** way to reach God? (Elaborate)
- 9) What happens after we die?
- 10) How would you define a Christian?
- 11) How does a person get to heaven?
- 12) What is your philosophy of life?
- 13) What do you think is common to world religions? How do they differ?

3. From the total of four (2) books type book critiques. Each critique is to be a **two-three page critique** of the book. Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book's strengths and weaknesses. As you read, ask yourself and answer these questions, read **critically/analytically**:

- ☞ Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique.
- ☞ Write a **brief summary** of the **main** theme and any **major secondary themes** of the author. I do not want a book review. I already know the content. Just give me enough to show you have read and digested the material.
- ☞ Include your **analysis** of the arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon **how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scripture.**
- ☞ **Evaluate** how they have either **succeeded or failed** in taking into account **all** of Scripture (in other words, is it a systematic argument or simply a use of some isolated proof texts?) **citing instances** from the book to support your evaluation.
- ☞ Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.
- ☞ Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally AND professionally** from reading this book.

4. Reflection Papers on the content of Guest Lecturers

Reflection paper – interact with the material and biblical texts with coherent thoughts, explanations, and applications, especially asking how it points to Christ and our need for him. These will be 2-3 pages long. Lord-willing there will be three guests during the semester.

Course Grading

1. Interview	15%
2. Book Critiques (15 % each)	30%
3. Reflection papers (10 % each)	30%
4. Written and verbal demonstration of evangelism/sharing the Gospel	20%
5. Written testimony (turned in at end of course)	5%

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers, (see below). Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

- **Weekly Lectures/Discussions** will be chapter by chapter through *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church*. These will take up approximately ½ the class.
- The other hour of class will be taken up by studying various evangelistic methods and outlines for presenting the Gospel.
- Three classes will be taken up by guest speakers and will include interaction and discussion.

1. January 23 - Introduction
2. January 30 – Miller ch. 1
3. February 6 – Miller ch. 2
4. February 13 – Miller ch. 3
5. February 20 – Miller ch. 4
6. February 27 – Miller ch. 5 – Book report 1 - DUE
7. March 5 – Miller ch. 6
8. March 12 – Miller ch. 7
9. March 19 – Miller ch. 8
10. March 26 – Miller ch. 9
11. April 2 – Miller ch. 10 – Book Report 2 DUE
12. April 9 - NO CLASS Holy Week
13. April 16 – Interview written and verbal presentation DUE. Personal testimony DUE.
14. April 23 – Gospel presentations verbal and written during class.

Certificate students do not have to do book reports, but do need to read one of the listed books.

Turabian: A Quick Guide

Title Page

- The title page should include the paper title, your name, and your class information
- All the text on the title page should be standard 12pt. font, centered and double-spaced
- The paper's title should be about one-third of the way down the page
- Your name and class information should be about two-thirds of the way down the page

Margins

- The left margin of each page is 1.5 inches; all other margins are 1 inch.

Font and Typeface

- Use only a 12-point Times New Roman font for main text and 10-point Times New Roman font for footnotes. For biblical languages, use 12-point (or a similar size) font.
- Italicize book, magazine, and journal titles (do not underline).

Page Numbers

- Page numbers should begin on the first page of the paper's text, not on the title page.
- Place page numbers flush with the top right-hand margin.

Spacing/Indentation

- The entire paper should be double-spaced, apart from the following exceptions: block quotes, footnotes, bibliography, and table titles (all of which are single spaced).
- A terminal punctuation should be followed by single space.
- Indent the first line of paragraphs and entire block quotations 0.5 inch from the left margin.

Quotations

- Block quotations are used only with a prose quotation of five or more lines.
- Single space a block quotation, and leave a blank line before and after it.

Citations/References

- Use superscript numbers both in the text and footnote numbers preceding the notes.
- Cited Bible passages should be in parentheses within the main text rather than in a footnote.
- Spell out book names of the Bible in the main text but use abbreviations in parenthetical or reference material. Example:
Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
The Bible states, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).
- Use the "traditional" style for abbreviations of books of the Bible; do not italicize.
- Cite unpublished interviews in the footnotes.

Voice and Style

- Papers generally should be written in the 3rd person (he, she, it) with an active voice. 1st person pronouns (I, we, us) can be used where appropriate, but the 2nd person pronoun (you) should be avoided.
- Capitalize pronouns when referring to any Person of the Godhead to minimize ambiguity.

GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Grading Criteria and Assessment

A	A-	B	B-	C	C-	D	D-
<p>Thesis sentence/statement is clear/comprehensive.</p> <p>Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are accurate and correct. Writing is even, creative and guides the reader effectively through the paper.</p> <p>Paragraphs are well organized and coherent; paper flows smoothly.</p> <p>Person and format are appropriate for the assignment.</p> <p>Quotes, Scriptures, paraphrases and summaries are used & cited appropriately and with excellence.</p> <p>Research reveals sources (primary and secondary) which clearly support main arguments (Scholarly, Academic and Theological).</p> <p>Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i> is understood and adhered to.</p>	<p>Thesis sentence/statement lacks specificity and clarity. Opportunity for significant improvement exists.</p> <p>Minor misspellings and grammar/punctuation mistakes exist that disrupt flow but do not hinder understanding.</p> <p>Paragraph structure is acceptable but not as organized and coherent.</p> <p>Person and format do not work in this particular assignment.</p> <p>Sources adequately support main points, but using greater variety and depth of primary and secondary sources and more critical thinking would have made a more compelling argument.</p> <p>Some minor errors occur but paper generally conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>.</p>	<p>Thesis sentence/statement is unclear and vague.</p> <p>Numerous misspellings, punctuation and grammar mistakes, difficult to follow reasoning, and flow of reading is disrupted.</p> <p>Paragraph structure is often confusing and inconsistent.</p> <p>Person and format are inappropriate for this assignment.</p> <p>Sources are inadequate and shallow; do not reflect an understanding of the project. Serious research, study and preparation are not evidenced. Ideas presented do not reflect mastery or insight but more manipulation of terms and concepts.</p> <p>Paper does not reflect an adequate understanding or usage of Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>.</p>	<p>Thesis sentence/statement is non-existent.</p> <p>Spelling, punctuation and grammar make it nearly impossible to follow the line of reasoning from sentence to sentence.</p> <p>Paragraphs lack focus, clarity, and are incoherent and without structure or form.</p> <p>Person and format are confusing and totally inappropriate for this assignment.</p> <p>Insufficient numbers of quotes or quotes are overly used; paraphrases, quotes, summaries, Scripture and sources are improperly used and cited in error.</p> <p>Paper does not conform to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>.</p>				

Birmingham Theological Seminary Grading Sheet

Student Name: _____

Course Number: _____

Professors Name: _____

Course Name: _____

Points	Grade	BTS Course Points Grade Value			
		A 96-100 (4.0)	B 85-89 (3.0)	C 75-79 (2.0)	D 65-69
		A- 90-95 (3.5)	B- 80-84 (2.5)	C- 70-74 (1.5)	D- 60-64 (.5)
		F Below 60 (0)			

Grading Evaluation Criteria: Please incorporate comments throughout the assignment that will enhance, correct, and/or guide the student's current and continued knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Then summarize those comments under each section below and assign point value. Add the points in each section and record in the points section above.

<p>Content - Selection and Utilization of Resources</p> <p>Earned Possible</p> <p>Sources: Academic, Theological, Primary, Secondary – Understanding and Application</p> <p>40</p>		

<p>Critical Thinking – Analysis and Development of Resources and Concepts</p> <p>Earned Possible</p> <p>Analyzing, Creativity, Thought Process, Organization, Conceptual Development, Critiquing</p> <p>40</p>		

<p>Writing – Document Format and Language Structure</p> <p>Possible</p> <p>Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation, Syntax, Adherence to Turabian Style and Format</p> <p>20</p>		<p>Earned</p>

Faculty Signature