

Evangelism 542
Strategies for Contemporary Evangelism
Spring 2005 – B Quad

Instructor

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Text Books

Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckman. The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge. New York: Anchor Books. 1966.

Terry Eagleton. After Theory. London: Penguin. 2003.

McLaren, Brian. More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2002.

Donald Miller. Searching for God Knows What. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson. 2004.

Sweet, Leonard, ed. The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2003.

Lane, Patty. A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures: Making Friends in a Multi-cultural World. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press. 2002.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

1. This course is designed to familiarize the student with several new books addressing the contemporary American church and its need to fulfill its Great Commission responsibilities within its culture.
2. The course is centered on the six books above. The class periods will be structured around a contemplative discussion of each book. This will allow the student to understand the author's angle of vision and its implications for the Church. This will:
 - a. Produce in the student developing skills for a communal learning experience.
 - b. Produce in the student fresh angles of vision for the evangelistic mission of the church.
 - c. Give the student a means for evaluation his or her own current strategy for evangelism in light of the current discussion.

3. The reading, discussions and written work will culminate in a final project that allows the student to make creative application of the material to the contemporary situation.

Course Assignments and Grading

1. Each student is required to read the six books listed above. At the end of the course a reading report will be due indicating the percentage of the reading completed. This will count for fifty percent of the course grade. The grade will be assessed by the following standard: 100-99% = A, 98-97% = A-, 96-95% = B+, 94-93% = B, 92-91% = B-, 90-89% = C+, 88-87% = C, 86-85% = C-, 84-83% = D+, 82-81% = D, 80-79% = D-, 78% and below = F. This same grading standard will apply to all course work as well as for the final grade.
2. The week of the discussion of any given book, a two page summary of that book will be due (typed, double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font). This summary will have added to it a third page with five discussion questions relevant to the particular book. These papers will count towards 30% of the course grade.
3. The final class period will require each student to make an oral presentation to the class outlining a strategy for contemporary evangelism that shows integration and utilization of the course material. This report will be oral and will not require a written paper. The grade for this assignment will be assessed by student evaluation and will count for 15% of the course grade. The student evaluations will be assessed on the success of the report to address the following:
 - a. An awareness of problems in the contemporary church making it deficient in fulfilling its evangelistic responsibilities to the contemporary culture.
 - b. An awareness of how those deficiencies might be address effectively.
 - c. An awareness of the contents of the books read for the course and how the insights of those authors might be integrated into an evangelistic work.
4. A subjective grade will be given to the student by the instructor based on his assessment of the students overall participation in the class discussions. This grade will count for 5% of the overall course grade.

Class Dates and Assignments

Monday March 14

Introduction to the course. Preliminary questions and perennial issues related to evangelism for individuals and church communities.

Monday March 21

Discussion of Berger. Berger paper due.

Monday March 29

Discussion of Eagelton. Eagelton paper due.

Monday April 5

Discussion of McLaren. McLaren paper due.

Monday April 12

Discussion of Miller. Miller paper due.

Monday April 19

Discussion of Sweet. Sweet paper due.

Monday April 26

Discussion of Lane. Lane paper due.

Monday May 3

Final Oral Presentations.