

**Evangelism 526 Syllabus**  
**Evangelism and the Gospel:**  
**Historical and Theological Perspectives**

**Professor:**

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BGC 418G  
Office Hours by appointment  
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**Class Times:** Monday - Saturday, 8:30 AM-5:30 PM

**Course Description:**

Focuses on different paradigms and practices in evangelism throughout the history of the Christian church, as well as different theological and literary approaches to understanding and communicating the good news of the kingdom of God. (4)

**Department Goal:**

Our mission is to develop Christian professionals skilled in theory and practice for culturally-relevant service in a constantly changing world.

**Evangelism Degree Goal:**

Our mission is to develop people for effective leadership in evangelism that is informed by critical engagement with the nature of the gospel, Christian life and thought, and the cultures of the contemporary world.

**Specific Department Goals for this Course:**

By the end of this course, students will better **understand** the nature of the gospel, Christian life and thought, and cultures of the contemporary world in that they . . .

N1. Demonstrate knowledge of the theology of the gospel of the kingdom of God.

N2. Show a grasp of different historical and contemporary paradigms and practices of renewal and revival.

Students will be evaluated on the degree to which these goals were accomplished in the final papers for the course.

**Textbooks:**

*Required*

Green, Joel B. and Mark D. Baker. 2000. *Recovering the scandal of the cross: Atonement in New Testament & contemporary contexts*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

Greig, Pete Roberts Dave. 2003. *Red moon rising: How 24-7 prayer is awakening a generation*. Lake Mary, FL: Relevant Books.

Smith, Gordon T. 2001. *Beginning well: Christian conversion and authentic transformation*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Sweeney, Douglas A. 2005. *The American evangelical story: A history of the movement*: Baker Academic.

Wright, N. T. 2006. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity makes sense*: Harper San Francisco.

**Optional**, or if you have read one or more of the above books, you can substitute with either or both of the books below:

McKnight, Scot. 2007. *A community called atonement*. Living theology; 1: Abingdon Press.

Jenkins, Philip. 2002. *The next Christendom: The coming of global Christianity*. Oxford: New York.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

- Explore the Biblical basis for evangelism
- Understand the theology of the gospel, including Shalom, kingdom of God and atonement theologies.
- Examine different historical paradigms for the gospel and evangelism throughout church history.
- Study historical and contemporary paradigms and practices of renewal, revival and spiritual awakening, and apply what is learned to contemporary ministry contexts.
- Articulate a simple but theologically and historically informed summary of the gospel that can be shared with unchurched people.

**Assignments and Grading:**

- Class Participation (10% of the grade)

- **Advance Work:** Read the above required texts and write a 3 page summary and critique for each class text, using the following questions as a guide, see assignment due dates(20% of the grade):
  1. What are the main ideas expressed in this book? How do you evaluate those ideas?
  2. What historical paradigms and practices of evangelism most struck you, and how might you incorporate those ideas into your approach to evangelism?
  3. What theological perspectives on evangelism and the gospel do you want to incorporate into your thinking and communication? Why?
  
- 10-page double-spaced research paper on a historic or contemporary renewal or revival movement or ministry (30% of the grade). Consider using the BGC archives. Answer the following questions:
  1. Why did you choose to research this particular movement or ministry? Why do you think it is significant for today and for you?
  2. What is the history of the movement or ministry?
  3. What were the key figures and factors contributing to the emphasis on renewal and revival, and to the shape the renewal or revival took?
  4. How would you compare and contrast this movement or ministry with other renewal or revival movements that we talked about in class?
  5. How do you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the movement or ministry?
  6. How might you apply the experiences of renewal or revival to your own context?
  
- 10-page double spaced reflection paper on the understanding of evangelism and the gospel, quoting appropriate Biblical sources and historical examples, using the following questions as a guide (30% of the grade):
  1. What is evangelism? How do you understand evangelism Biblically? What historical paradigms have influenced your thinking on evangelism?
  2. What is the gospel? Use Scriptural and theological perspectives in your discussion of what the gospel is.
  3. How would you communicate the gospel in the context into which you are called? What metaphors or illustrations might you use to communicate the gospel?
  4. How has your thinking about evangelism and the gospel been influenced by your reading, learning and experience through this course?

These last two assignments are the key for assessing the degree to which students fulfill two of the goals for the course (see N1 and N2 above).

**Assignment Due Dates:**

- Readings and reflection papers on the readings due the first day of class (second at the latest, with a grade reduction for later submission).
- The two final papers are both due four weeks after the last day of class, with a grade reduction for later submission.
- Attendance at all classes required, with a grade reduction if more than one half day of class is missed.
- Academic honesty will also be expected.

**Course Schedule of Themes:**

Course Introduction: Evangelism, Leadership and this course.

Biblical Theology of Evangelism

The Gospel as Shalom, Kingdom, Salvation

Models and Metaphors of the Atonement

Theology of Conversion

Communicating the Gospel

The History of the Advance of the Gospel: Periods and Paradigms

Renewal and Revival through History

The Coming Global Christianity

Preaching, Teaching and Training for Evangelism and the Gospel

Evangelism, Leadership and the Future of the Church