

## EVANGELISM TODAY

EMs 3163  
Fall 2008 - T/TH 3:00-4:20

Instructor: Dr. Frances S. Adeney  
Schlegel 122

*This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.*

**Course Description:** This course outlines theologies of evangelism that respond to situations encountered by North American congregations. Those theologies are rooted in diverse Christian traditions and combine numerous outreach strategies including discipleship, service, worldview transformation, prophetic witness, church planting, and community practices. Students will devise practical ways in which congregations can revitalize their outlook and outreach.

**Learning Outcomes:** This course prepares students entering parish ministry to:

- understand and appreciate differences among Christian theologies of evangelism
- envision problems and possibilities of evangelism in varying North American contexts
- evaluate personal aptitudes and theologies of evangelism
- devise appropriate strategies for congregational evangelism

### **Approaches to Evangelism:**

The Church in the World: Discipleship in Context  
Sharing the Faith: Relationship With God and Witness  
Apologetics: Transforming Worldview  
An Ecumenical Approach: Evangelism as Practice  
Prophetic Witness: A Liberation Approach  
Growing the Church: Church Planting  
Service: A Needs-Based Approach

### **Requirements and Evaluation:**

1. Thorough reading and informed discussion, participation in class activities, quizzes, and daily assignments. (20%)
2. Two field observation outings. Each outing will consist of a visit to a worship or evangelistic service and a five page (12pt. Double-spaced) written report. (40%)
3. A project outlining an evangelism strategy for a congregation in a specific locale, supporting that strategy theologically, and developing plans for its implementation by a congregation. Teams of two persons work together on a 20 page report to be presented by the team in class. (40%)

### **Required Texts:**

Hiebert, Paul G. *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, 2008 (ISBN 978-0-8010-2705-5)

Jones, Scott J. *The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor: A Theology of Witness and Discipleship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003. (ISBN 0-687-04614-9)

Reese, Marth Grace. *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2006. (ISBN-13: 978-0-8272-3804-6)

Roberts, Bob, Jr. *The Multiplying Church: The New Math for Starting New Churches*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008. (ISBN-13: 978-0-310-27716-3)

Pierson, Robert D. *Needs-Based Evangelism: Becoming a Good Samaritan Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006. (ISBN 0-687-33248-6)

Smith, J. Alfred Sr. *Speak Until Justice Wakes: Prophetic Reflections from J. Alfred Smith Sr.* Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2006. (ISBN: 0-8170-1501-9)

Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2007. (ISBN: 978-1-58743-194-4)

**Note:** Plagerism will not be tolerated. More than 3 absences will affect grade.

