



*To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.*

## Syllabus

### MI 545 Evangelism and Church Planting

Fall 2018



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“The church is under orders. Evangelistic inactivity is disobedience.”  
- John R W Stott

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Vinod John, PhD  
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Office hours: by appointment

**SCHEDULE:** September 6, 2018 to December 6, 2018. Thursdays, 8:30am to 12:15pm

**CREDITS:** 3 [90 hours of work outside of class time]

**DESCRIPTION:** This course is a study of the biblical foundation of evangelization that aims at developing an effective witness in today’s context. Includes a practical seminar on church planting as well as an opportunity for students to develop a plan for personal and congregational witness.

#### OBJECTIVES BASED ON TARGET STATEMENTS:

##### A. Knowledge—Students will

- Describe a sound biblical and theological mandate for the work of evangelism.
- Describe the knowledge and skills required for personal and local church evangelistic work.
- Describe a sound biblical and missional mandate for church planting.
- Describe biblical principles for church planting.
- Describe best methods and practices for relevant church planting in their particular cultural context in a city, neighborhood, or community.

##### B. Character—Students will

- Attend classes regularly, participate meaningfully and complete reading assignments.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses and areas of personal growth in evangelism.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses and areas of growth as a congregational leader in local church evangelism and church planting.

- Describe the impact of the course on a personal sense of missional calling for evangelism and church planting.

Ability—Students will

- Carry out a spiritual conversation aimed at personal evangelism.
- Provide two examples of a critical incident by writing a verbatim for each one.
- Engage with other students in a respectful manner.
- Observe and critique their context and propose a plan of action for change.

### **TEXTBOOK(S):**

Bowen, John P. *Evangelism for “Normal” People: Good News for Those Looking for a Fresh Approach*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002. [224 pages] Also available on Kindle.

Stone, Bryan P. *Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Brazos Press, 2007. [335 pages] Also available on Kindle.

Payne, J.D. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Paternoster, 2009. [458 pages] Also available on Kindle.

Each student should also have a copy of the *Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style)*. This is available online on the Taylor seminary website, as well as on the course’s Moodle site.

### **COMPETENCIES**

- Leadership
- Exegesis
- Shepherding
- Faithfulness
- Presence

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Class attendance and participation**

Though there is no percentage attached to this requirement, this course has a major experiential component in which you must participate. Unexcused absences will need prior permission from your instructor or else they will adversely affect your grade. Students should also participate in class discussions and online interactions (Moodle) on topics assigned for each day/week. A topic may also be posted on Moodle forum where each student is to post his/her thoughts along with interacting with at least one member of the forum.

## OVERVIEW:

- Assignment accommodates knowledge and ability target statements
- Assignment develops competency in Shepherding, Faithfulness, Presence.
- Assignment addresses requirements in Outcomes #8.

### Assignment #1: Readings

Students should read selected chapters from the required texts listed above and complete a minimum of 750 pages. You are encouraged to supplement the reading with books and articles of your choice, which may be selected from the Bibliography provided below.

A signed reading log must be submitted by the end of the course according to the format provided below.

Due date: Dec 9th, 2018

## OVERVIEW:

- Assignment accommodates knowledge target statements
- Assignment develops competency in Shepherding, Faithfulness.
- Assignment addresses requirements in Outcomes #2, #3, #4, #8.

**Assignment #2. Book review:** Each student is required to write a Book Review of one of the books selected from the required textbooks or from the Bibliography provided below. Use the format provided below in Appendix I and submit it on Moodle. Due date: November 6th, 2018.

## OVERVIEW:

- Assignment accommodates knowledge target statements
- Assignment develops competency in Shepherding, Faithfulness.
- Assignment addresses requirements in Outcomes #8.

**Assignment #3. Two short write ups** on “critical incidents of evangelism”: Students are expected to have a commitment to evangelism and start practicing it as a way of life if they are not already doing so. Therefore, throughout this semester, students should be intentionally looking for opportunities to engage people in “spiritual conversations” wherein they look for opportunities to share the Gospel with the people they meet in their daily walk. It could be in their workplace, family or in the marketplace. These people could be co-workers, family or friends, or acquaintances in the marketplace. Students will choose two such events and write up a 3-4 page “critical incident report” on it. This report should include the following elements each of which weighs 5 points for a total of 15 points for each write up.

*Description* – of the setting, occasion, and the nature of the relationship between the student and the person(s) in which this incident occurred. 5 points.

*Verbatim* – a word-for-word write-up of the conversation that took place (using only the most significant parts of the conversation). 5 points.

*Analysis/Reflection* – discussing what you think went well, what could have been done/said better. Reflect on what you learned about yourself and your style as an evangelist. What theological issues arose from

this conversation? What have you learned from this course that you incorporated into your conversation, or, in retrospect, you wished you had incorporated into your conversation? 5 points.

Due dates: 1st write up: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018; 2nd write up: November 25th, 2018.

Note: It is not essential that this incident should lead to someone deciding to become a follower of Jesus Christ. It is just an opportunity for you to think in depth about an actual interaction and conversation and to make you more aware of the opportunities to steer conversations toward spiritual concerns and the gospel.

### **OVERVIEW:**

- Assignment accommodates knowledge, character and ability target statements
- Assignment develops competency in Proclamation, Shepherding, Faithfulness, Presence.
- Assignment addresses requirements in Outcomes #3, #8.

**Assignment #4. The Final Paper:** There is no final exam. Instead, students are required to write a final/term paper. Each student will reflect upon the readings, lectures, assignments, group discussions, and integrate his/her learning in writing either “A Proposal for Evangelism” or “A Proposal for Church Planting” for his/her church where s/he serves or is an active member. This paper should include suggestions for implementing your proposal in and through the local church. The Term Paper **MUST** incorporate the following four elements, each of which carries 10 marks out of the total 40 marks possible.

A. The student’s understanding of the biblical mandate of evangelism and church planting (two to three pages). This is to see your articulation of the biblical mandate. 10 points.

B. A description of student’s local church, its socio-cultural context, and needs (one to two pages). Feel free to discuss this in detail with the instructor to identify and focus on your particular situation. This is to see your observation and skills of context analysis. 5 points.

C. A detailed proposal for involving the whole “Body of Christ” of the student’s local church in evangelism or church planting. Provide details of the means, methods, and strategies you propose for getting the church to be an evangelistic and/or a church planting body of believers on God’s mission in their context (three to six pages). This part is to see how you apply your learning in a practical way in your given context. 15 points.

D. A brief description of how the student intends to implement his/her proposal in the local church (one to two pages). This is to see how your proposal moves from the theory to practice. 10 points.

Furthermore, the final paper should demonstrate student’s comprehension of the reading material of this course and grappling with practical issues involved in making a church participate in God’s mission. The length of the paper should be between 10 and 15 pages, typed in double space. The formatting of the paper is very crucial; therefore, students **MUST** follow the *Taylor Guide for Research and Writing* (SBL Style) available on seminary’s website. Failure to strictly follow the SBL style may affect your grades. This assignment along with other assignments should be submitted only through the assignment slot provided on Module. Due date: Dec 9th, 2018.

Late submissions: All written assignments will be set up on Moodle in such a way that they are due by 11:55 PM (MT) of the due dates listed below. It may not be possible to submit a late assignment after the cut off time, unless a student has secured special permission from the instructor for an extension prior to the due date. An extension is provided only in rare circumstances, otherwise a late assignment will not be accepted.

**OVERVIEW:**

- Assignment accommodates knowledge, character and ability target statements
- Assignment develops competency in Proclamation, Shepherding, Faithfulness, Presence.
- Assignment addresses requirements in Outcomes #3, #8.

**EVALUATION:**

Assignments	Due Date	Percentage
#1. Readings and Reading log	December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Nil
#2. Book review of a book of your choice from the textbooks or Bibliography.	November 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	30%
#3. First write up on the “critical incidents of evangelism.” Second write up	October 6 <sup>th</sup> and November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	30%
#4. Final Paper.	December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	40%
Total		100%

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students are strongly encouraged to be physically and mentally present during class time and to participate in discussions and activities. Unexcused absences, tardiness, and lack of active participation may adversely affect your grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in failure of the course.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**Week 1, Sept 6—12**

Introductions and explanation of the course. The problem with evangelism. Clarifying the evangel, evangelism, witness. Read: John Bowen, *Evangelism for Normal People*, chapter 1, 10; Bryon Stone, *Evangelism After Christendom*, Introduction and part 1.

**Week 2, Sept 13 – 19**

Biblical basis of evangelism. Read: John Bowen, chapter 2; Bryon Stone, chapter 2 of part 2.

**Week 3, Sept 20 – 26**

Learning evangelism at the feet of Jesus. Read John Bowen, chapters 4—6; Bryon Stone, chapter 3 in Part 2.

**Week 4, Sept 27 – Oct 3**

Learning evangelism at the feet of the Apostles. Read John Bowen, chapters 7—9; Bryon Stone, chapter 4 in Part 2.

**Week 5, Oct 4—10**

Dynamics of church, community, and context for evangelism. John Bowen, chapter 3; Bryon Stone, part 4.

**Week 6, Oct 11 - 17**

Practical ways and means for a contextual and meaningful evangelism in our context. Read John Bowen, chapters 14—16.

**Week 7, Oct 18—24**

No regular class due to Fall Modular Week,

**Week 8, Oct 25 – 31**

Guest professor: Dr. Allan Effa.

Cross-cultural communication of the gospel in different religio-cultural contexts and overcoming barriers to the acceptance of and objections to the gospel.

Read John Bowen, chapter 11 and 13;

Zylstra, Sarah Eekhoff. "Here's What Evangelical Experts on Missions and Muslims Think of Wheaton's 'Same God' Debate." *Christianity Today*. 19 Jan. 2016. Web. (Will be available on Moodle).

Articles on the "Same God" controversy published in the Occasional Bulletin, special edition, 2016, by the Evangelical Missiological Society (Will be available on Moodle).

**Week 9, Nov 1 - 7**

Evangelism and church planting. Church planting and its biblical and theological foundations.

Read: J. D. Payne, *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*, section I.

**Week 10, Nov 8 - 14**

Strategies, receptivity, and contextualization in church planting.

Read: J. D. Payne, section II.

**Week 11, Nov 15 - 21**

Lessons from historical and contemporary church planting.

Read: J. D. Payne, section III.

**Week 12, Nov 22 – 28**

Practical and contemporary issues in church planting. Models of church planting in urban areas.

Read: J. D. Payne, section IV (chapters 19- 22).

**Week 13, Nov 29 – Dec 5**

Tent making and church planting. Church planting movements around the world.

Read: J. D. Payne, section IV (chapters 23 -25).

**Week 14, Dec 6 - 12**

Continued: Tent making and church planting. Church planting movements around the world.

Last day of classes, please submit all required assignments by the due date, i.e. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## **FINAL REMARKS:**

### *Moodle.*

Taylor Seminary's Moodle platform has been migrated to our sister seminary in South Dakota, Sioux Falls Seminary (SFS). Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access:

<https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is your first initial of your first name and your last name all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log in as jcalvin

Your assigned password is: TaylorSem123\$

You will be forced to change it to a personal password the first time you log-in. Your new password should include at least one capital letter, a numeric symbol and a non-numeric symbol.

Once you are logged into the platform, you will need to enrol yourself in the courses.

- Click on 'Taylor Seminary' for Taylor's online courses and "Sioux Falls Seminary" for SFS's online courses. The course subjects will be listed.
- Click on the appropriate course subject and the courses will be listed.
- Select the course in which you wish to enrol.
- The default enrolment key is the course code (with no uppercase and no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number. For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417.

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email [teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca)

### *Formatting.*

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

### *Research Language.*

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to “man” generically or to “mankind,” “men,” “he”; rather use “humankind,” “humanity,” “person,” etc.)

*Plagiarism.*

Academic honesty and integrity are essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work” (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person’s work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary’s Academic Committee.**

*Course Withdrawal Policy*

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a “W” will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an “F” will be recorded on the student’s transcript.

**APPENDIX I**

**Book Review Format**

Student’s full name and Id #..... Course # .....

Book title and author.....

Number of pages read from the book.....

Write the book review in less than 3000 words reflecting critically on its content and themes. Describe the main thesis of the book and the main arguments outlined by the author. State your agreement or disagreement with the author’s thesis and main arguments.

List the book’s strengths and weaknesses.

Finally, conclude with a few lines on the book’s relevance to the subject matter and your recommendation to other readers.

**APPENDIX II**

**Reading Log Format**

Student name and Id #..... Course # .....

Book title and Author	Number of paged read	Date completed
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Total: ..... Signature .....

**APPENDIX III**

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods, St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1962.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.

Arment, Ben. *Church in the Making: What Makes or Breaks a New Church Before it Starts.* Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2010.

Bowen, John P. *Evangelism for “Normal” People: Good News for Those Looking for a Fresh Approach.* Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.

Chilcote, Paul W, and Lacey C. Warner. *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church.* 2008.

Conn, Harvie M. *Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 1982.

Crandall, Ronald K, and Herb Miller. *Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Crandall, Ron. *The Contagious Witness: Exploring Christian Conversion.* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. 1999.

Dale, Felicity. *An Army of Ordinary People: Real Stories of Ordinary People Advancing God’s Kingdom.* Austin, TX: Karis Publishing, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Getting Started: A Practical Guide to House Church Planting.* Austin, TX: House 2 House, 2003.

Dawson, Scott, ed. *The Complete Evangelism Guidebook: Expert Advice on Reaching Others for Christ.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 2006.

Hunter, George G. *How to Reach Secular People.* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. 1992.

Hunter, George G. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West Again.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

Kraft, Charles. *Communication Theory for Christian Witness.* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. 1991.

McRaney, Will. *The Art of Personal Evangelism: Sharing Jesus in a Changing Culture*. Nashville, Tenn: Broadman & Holman, 2003

Payne, J.D. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Paternoster, 2009.

Stone, Bryan P. *Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Brazos Press, 2007.

Tuttle, Robert, Jr., *The Story of Evangelism*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.