

## **COS 523 Evangelism**

Saint Paul School of Theology Course of Study School  
Hybrid Course  
Summer 2022  
Rev. Carlos Ramírez, instructor

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God.

Students will be able to:

- 1) Reflect on and articulate the meaning of the Gospel and an understanding of the Church as bearers of God's Word to the world.
- 2) Ground a theology of evangelism in Scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
- 3) Interpret of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
- 4) Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by the congregation.

### **TEXTBOOK LIST**

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Mortimer Arias, *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus* (Wipf and Stock, 2001) ISBN 978-1579105631
- Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Powe, *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith* (Discipleship Resources, 2006) ISBN 978-0-88177-485-6

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

- Stephen Gunter, Elaine Robinson, ed. *Considering the Great Commission*.
- Doug Powe. *New Wine and New Wineskins:How African American Congregations Can Reach New Generations*.

### **Three Assignments**

#### **ASSIGNMENT # 1 (TEN PAGES)**

**DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022.**

Using both text books, the first five (5) pages, unpack the following themes: Kingdom of God, hope, Wesleyan way of sharing faith. On the last five (5) pages, reflect on your own theology of evangelism and how the texts have enhanced, corrected, or reinterpret your own theology of evangelism.

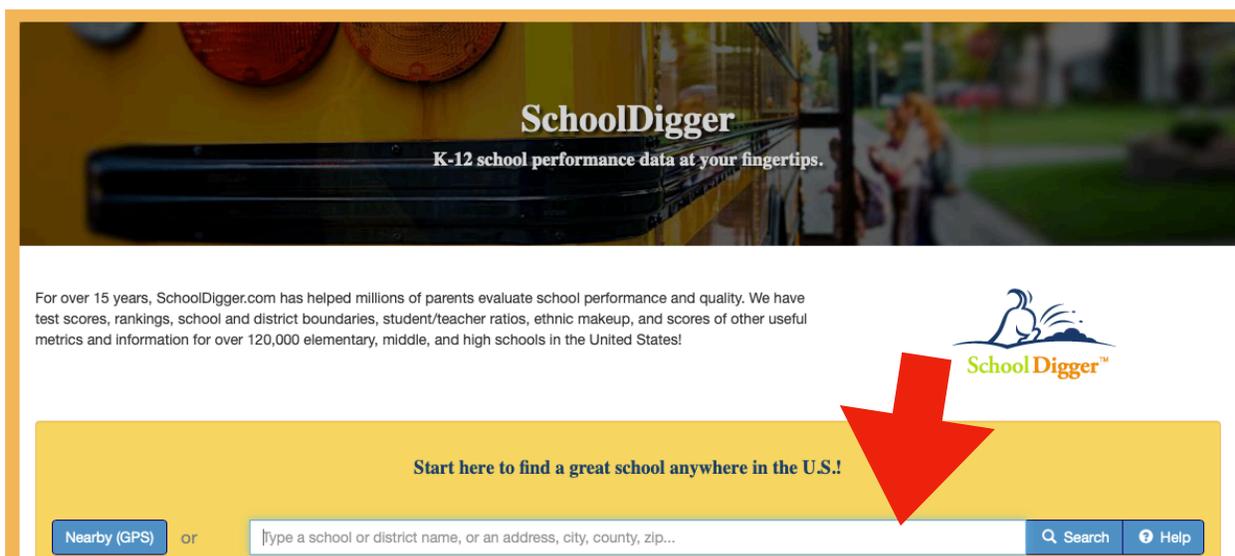
#### **ASSIGNMENT # 2 (FIVE PAGES)**

**DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022.**

**Better Know Your Community.** The challenges we the Church face, require of leaders that understand his/her community. There are many complexities in our mission field (changing demographics, limited resources, aging congregations, denominational stress, among many others). As we engage Scripture and the text books, it is important to know our context the best we can.



- 3) Scroll down and go through all the information this site provides: Median home value, median household income, estimated population overtime, age, race, type of households, real state and housing, value of homes, employment and types of employment, average household income over time, means of transportation, educational attainment, and school enrollment. Take your time. Ponder on each number.
- 4) On your internet browser type [schooldigger.com](http://schooldigger.com)
- 5) On the search bar write the name of the school that corresponds to your local church.
- 6) When you find it, click over the name of the school.



[▶ Visit Website](#)

**Central Elementary School in Warr Acres OK - SchoolDigger.com**

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★★★★★ SchoolDigger.com

Compare Details Racial makeup is: Hispanic (55.6%), White (21.3%), African American (10.6%). (See more...) Help. Compare ...

**Central Elementary School in Tuscaloosa AL - SchoolDigger.com**

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See how **Central Elementary School** ranks with other Tuscaloosa **schools**. ... last among 12 ranked elementary **schools** in the Tuscaloosa **City School** District.



- 7) Click on the STUDENTS. It will appear a graph with the demographics of the school over the last 30 years.
- 8) Finally, drive, bike, walk, around your mission field. The mission field understood as the immediate community where your local church is called to serve (Provide specific boundaries). If you have not defined a mission field, do so for this class. Notice if there are apartments complexes and roughly count them. Are there too many apartment complexes compared to single dwelling structures? Notice if there are banks or other financial institutions. Notice how many grocery stores are in your mission field. Take note if there are pawn shops, cash loans, thrift stores. How many agencies that assist people for different services exist in your mission field. Add any other information you think is important for your ministry context.
- 9) Combining all the data from the zip-code site, school-digger (if you can access Mission-in-site, please do so) and you exploring your mission field, answer the following questions:
  - A. **Define your mission field.** Give a brief introduction to describe the community in which your local church is placed.
  - B. Based on the data and your experience in the mission field, how does incarnational evangelism looks like? Does your theology of evangelism has to change or adapt?

### ASSIGNMENT # 3 (FIVE PAGES)

**DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022.**

**Develop a plan for evangelism for your local church.** Include the following in your plan:

- 1) A brief summary of the of your local church's mission field (CONTEXT). You already did this work. No need to extend much on this subject.

- 2) A definition of the good news of Jesus Christ that fits the CONTEXT of your MISSION FIELD.
- 3) What strengths or assets do you have in your local church?
- 4) Identify the biggest need in your MISSION FIELD. You need to present arguments and evidence to back up your observation.
- 5) What will be the biggest obstacles your congregation will face in order to shift from an inward looking congregation to an outward looking congregation?
- 6) What will be the biggest obstacles you and your congregation will face as you engage in ministry with your MISSION FIELD?
- 7) Based on your assets/strengths and the need of the mission field, sketch a possible ACTION step you and your congregation can take in order to engage with your MISSION FIELD.
- 8) What type of work does it need to happen inside the local church (worship series, training, setting up teams, etc.) in order to be the local church FOR your MISSION FIELD?
- 9) Include the role of the Holy Spirit in all of your evangelistic work.

## **ZOOM ORIENTATION**

**MEET FROM 6-8 PM CST, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS.**

Attendance is required for all students.

## **The Moodle Forums**

**(WEEKS OF JULY 6-JULY 15, 2022)**

Each of two weeks students are to:

- 1) Post in the two forums on Moodle for that week by noon Wednesday.
- 2) Respond to two posts by other students in each of the two forums (a total of four responses) by midnight Thursday.

Each forum has one or two questions for you to address. You will find those questions on Moodle. Your initial posts should be between 250-300 words for each question. Your posts in response to others should be around 100 words. In my class I am not strict about length, so if you need to write a bit more that is acceptable. Further conversation is also encouraged. You need to use course resources in your posts. You must cite all resource use. An informal parenthetical citation that references the book and page number are sufficient. For example, (Arias, 23) or (New Wine, 8).

Failure to post by noon Wednesday in both Forums constitutes an absence from class that week. Your grade is determined by both your initial posts by Wednesday and your responses to the posts of others on Thursday.

## Questions First Week

- 1) Based on your readings, what are the contexts or assumptions the authors operate in? How their contexts inform their theology and approach to Evangelism? How these texts enriched your approach for your own context?
- 2) Using all required texts answer, what does it mean, for your own particular context, to “announce the Reign of God”? Be specific. Be honest about the opportunities and challenges you face in your mission field. Force yourself not to answer as “wishful thinking” but as part of your actual ongoing engagement with your congregation and community.

## Questions Second Week

- 1) What are the good news? What is evangelism? Why do evangelism?
- 2) Using all the texts answer, what are the practical challenges (limited resources [time, money, personnel, etc.], denominational turmoil, aging congregation, to name a few) you face in order to truly change the ethos of your congregation so that it can become a missional/evangelistic congregation? What is ONE step you WILL take in order to start the change (in yourself and for your congregation)?

## ONLINE CLASS MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH, 2022 FROM 8-12, 1-5 PM CST**

We will meet by Zoom as a class on Wednesday July 20, 2022 from 8AM-12PM and 1-5PM. There are 10 total hours that you are REQUIRED to attend.

## GRADING

Written Assignments	40%
Moodle Forums	20%
Zoom Class	40%

## Two special notes:

- 1) Late papers receive a grade no higher than C (unless by special accommodation) and may receive no credit.
- 2) Missing one class session or 20% of a class work results in no credit for the course. [See the COS policy below]

## Course Policies

In this course, we have multiple accountabilities. First, we are accountable to the Triune God and the Christian life and work to which we are called. Second, we are accountable to the Church and to the believers who make up the COS 523 course community. Third, we (instructor and students) are accountable to the Course of Study Policies and Guidelines, which help us to be faithful to our calls, the Church, and each

other. I refer you to the COS policies but will highlight a few important expectations in this course.

## **Class Attendance**

“A student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing twenty percent (20%) or more of the class room work shall not receive credit for those classes. Online work shall be included in the attendance policy.” [COS Policies and Guidelines, page 5]

## **Academic Integrity Statement/Plagiarism**

“Each COS school shall establish an academic standards policy, including procedures and possible consequences for responding to violations of the policy.” [COS Policies and Guidelines, page 19]

**Note from the instructor:** To avoid plagiarism, which is taking someone else’s ideas or words/phrases/sentences and representing them as your own. In this course, **be sure** to use quotation marks to indicate when you’re quoting an author. Use footnotes to cite the places where anyone can find the quoted material or ideas. I recommend using Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*. See the folder posted in Moodle to learn the style expected. A quick reference guide is found at:

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide.html>

See/contact the instructor whenever you need writing support or advice.

## **Disability Accommodation**

Saint Paul strives to provide a great educational experience for all students. Students who require accommodations for a disability will be connected with individuals in our Disability Services office who will help assist in understanding the protections and processes in place. They will also help students walk through the necessary paperwork and communications to ensure their accommodations are met.

Students seeking disability accommodations should contact the Director of Course of Study. The director will maintain the forms necessary to begin the student accommodation process. This includes forms for the medical documentation of disabilities, which is required before any accommodation can be considered.

## **Sexual Harassment and Racial Harassment**

**Note from the instructor:** The two policies are too lengthy to quote here, but I refer you to the texts in the COS Policies and Guidelines, pages 19-23. Needless to say, the expected practice in our classroom will be to encourage, respect, and support each other in our work. The classroom is not a competitive or contentious place, but a collaborative and mutually responsible setting.

