**COS 523 Our Mission: Evangelism**

Mississippi Course of Study July 14-August 26, 2023

With on campus instruction July 28-29, 2023

Online instruction August 12, 2023

Dr. Leanne Burris, Instructor

This course introduces students to the theology and practices of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God. This course provides an analysis of the theology of evangelism and our faithfulness to God's call, and various strategies for enhancing the church's effectiveness in reaching out to people; explore the value of faith sharing and the important role it plays in inviting others to join the faith community.

# Course Objectives

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, with significant reference to the Biblical roots of evangelism. Particular attention will be given to the New Testament foundations as illustrated in the assignments in COS 523.
2. Ground a theology of evangelism in scripture, the Gospel, and the mission of God.
3. Interpret of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism, offering an analysis of contemporary issues in evangelism, such as debates on church growth, methodologies, the relationship of evangelism and mission, evangelism in relation to personal and social transformation, evangelism and liberation theologies, and revivalism.
4. Reflect on and implement strategies and models for evangelism by the congregation. Focus of evangelistic strategies should be in and for the use of the local congregation with emphasis on such issues as preaching evangelistically, organizing and training laity for evangelism, relating evangelism to Christian education, including evangelism in continuation classes, and planning for long-range evangelistic efforts in communities.

# Required Reading Texts:

* 1. Eddie Fox & George Morris *Faith Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation-* (ISBN) -13; 978-0881771589 (Discipleship Resources, 2003)
  2. Henry H. Knight III & F. Douglas Powe, Jr *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith:* (ISBN) -13; 978-0-88177-485-6 (Discipleship Resources, 2006)
  3. Mortimer Arias *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus* (ISBN)-13; 978-0788099038 (Academic Renewal Press, 1984)

# Supplemental Reading Texts:

* 1. Stephen Gunter, Elaine Robinson, eds. *Considering the Great Commission* (ISBN: 9780-687-4936-30) Abingdon Press, November 2005
  2. F. Douglas Powe, Jr. *New Wine New Wineskins: How African American Congregations Can Reach New Generations* (Abingdon Press, 2012)

# Asynchronous Pre-course work

## Watch welcome video in course connect (course overview, expectations, and syllabus review) Due July 21.

# Assignments In-Course work

## Read, submit to class a 5-3-1-1\* on Fox/Morris *Faith Sharing.* Due July 28

## Read, submit to class a 5-3-1-1\* on Arias *Announcing the Reign of God* due July 28

## Read, submit to class a 5-3-1-1\* on Knight/Powe *Transforming Evangelism.* Due July 28

## Read, submit to me by email a 5-3-1-1\* on either one of the supplemental readings of your choice. Due August 14 for extra credit.

[\*5-3-1-1 Report: 500 word total report of the text. Write five summary insights. These are 5 separate insights you gained from the text. Do not quote the text, but include the page numbers from which the insights came. Write 3 applicable insights. These 3 applications you or your church can make as a result of reading this text. Write 1 concrete action you will take. Include who will take the action, when the action will be taken, and how the action will be measured (success rate). Write 1 question that spurs discussion on one of the books major themes. An example of a 5-3-1-1 is attached and explained in the welcome video. You can email me with questions.]

## Students are required to conduct an interview with his/her mentor or an Elder nearby, discussing the mentor's plan of evangelism. Written report due August 14, 2023.

### Students should ask of the mentor the following questions:

#### What is the pastor‘s understanding of evangelism?

#### What is the church’s understanding of evangelism?

#### How was his/her plan developed?

#### What are the weaknesses of the plan?

#### What are the major strengths of the plan?

#### What are the results of the plan?

#### What can be done to improve the plan?

#### What did you learn from this interview? (this is the bulk of your paper-interact on paper with your mentor’s plan, especially using the material you have been reading and discussing-I will be looking to see how you critique an evangelism plan using course books and lectures)

### The interview can be conducted before or after the first class session, but the writer will need to supplement the report after class discussion has further informed the student’s understanding of “evangelism”. Contact your DS to secure the name of your Elder. If an Elder has not been assigned to you conduct your interview with a pastor in your community. Interviews may be done by phone or zoom if in-person is undesirable.

### All reports will be due August 14, 2023. Reports should be a minimum of 5 pages, double spaced. Use any style of formatting you are comfortable with, but please proof your work for grammar, spelling, and cohesive writing. If you quote sources other than the pastor you are interviewing, please include either footnotes or endnotes of that source.

## Student’s will develop one Evangelism Event. Each student will share his/her plan in class setting August 12, 2023. Each presentation should be approximately 15-20 minutes in length.

### This event should be one that will take place in the local church where student is serving.

### The event will be graded on the basis of its mission statement, goal, strategies, and follow-up. Written work (5 page minimum) to be submitted for credit includes flyers for advertising, budget sheets, committee minutes, menus, event agendas, and/or letters of invitation to the community.

# Session One: Friday July 28, 2023

## Welcome and Introductions (Friday evening)

## Develop a working Understanding of Evangelism (Friday evening)

# Session Two: Friday July 29, 2023

## Growing an understanding of Evangelism (Saturday morning)

## Book reviews 5311 sharing (Saturday afternoon)

# Session Three: August 12, 2023

## Evangelism Event sharing (Saturday morning)

*The following is a 5-3-1-1 I completed for doctoral coursework for the book* The Good Works Reader *by Thomas Oden. This book is not assigned to you (although it’s a helpful book for any pastor). This is an example of the concise and direct wording I am looking for in your 5-3-1-1 assignments. They should not be more than a 2 page long per book review.*

**5 Summary statements** *(These are 5 concise statements that give an overall review of the content in the main sections of the book. Please reference the page number.)*

1. (p. 61) Let’s not deconstruct all the good that 2000 years of Christianity has produced because we presume that our arrival on the planet ushers in the era of intelligence. Oden brings forward wisdom, praxis, and learning in this Reader.
2. The Opus Imperfectum (pg 80) changes the strategy of using Matthew 25 as a teaching tool. I must know the fullness or scarcity of my own spiritual condition if I am to share it.
3. The conversation among the church fathers regarding modesty (among other cultural mores) is both insightful and conspicuously different from current conversations (pp.131-134) The definition of modesty changes in every era, but truth does not.
4. Gentleness and kindness are not overlooked as “good works” in the volume (pp. 270-276). These evidences of a fruitful spirit are not simple or childish; they are great works of good that manifest out of a sanctified life.
5. (Pg 315) Chrysostom could have been speaking about the professional athletes or Hollywood elites of our day. From cover to cover, Oden demonstrates that the Church Fathers addressed every temptation common to humanity and its gospel response.

**Actionable Insights** *(These are three brief statements about ideas I am considering, questioning, or interacting with mentally based on the reading)*

1. (pg 61) Our world has increasingly has normalized single parenting or bi-parenting lesbians, and rejected “fatherless” as a pejorative. Can the role of two parents be lifted as the biblical ideal without demeaning the ability of women to “hold steady through period of crisis?”
2. (pg 193-99) If addiction could be addressed by the Church of the pre-modern era (without benefit of physiology or psychology), it must be addressed by the Church of today as a spiritual issue.
3. (p. 246) It isnt likely that many congregations give thought to the persecuted church in the world. How can we join the fight?

**1 Concrete Action** *(This is one measurable goal I have based on what I have learned)*

1. I preached on philanthropy using the text from 2 Corinthians (God loves a cheerful giver). While philanthropy and generosity is a non-negotiable for the believer, it is always a benefit to the believer. Generosity increases our faith.

**1 Question for Group Consideration**

### 1. How do you understand and talk about modesty? After reading this text, do you have an alternative meaning for the teaching?