SHOW AND TELL: COMMUNICATING CHRISTIANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
DR. JIM BELCHER

RTS Orlando Doctor of Ministry Elective 2DM866
January 16-20, 2012

Course Description

This class will explore the challenge of communicating the depth and beauty of Christianity in the 21st Century—to thoughtful believers and honest skeptics. Starting with the assumption that all people have a world-view and are moral beings, we will look at the best way to reach them, both by showing and telling, the amazing message of Christianity. We will spend time “exegeting” some of the major cultural trends around us, look deeper into the current loss of self, truth and community in our world, and discover how to present Christianity, which is the only way to regain human flourishing, horizons for purpose and meaning, and life changing community that meets our deepest need for belonging and growth.

Instructor

Dr. Jim Belcher (M.A., Fuller; Ph.D., Georgetown) is the author of Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional. Jim is the former founding church planter and lead pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California. Jim is the cofounder of the Restoring Community Conference: Integrating Social Interaction, Sacred Space and Beauty in the 21st Century, an annual conference for city officials, planners, builders and architects. He previously led the Twenty-Something Fellowship and cofounded The Warehouse Service at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. He has served as adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University and was cofounder of the Renaissance Project Skateboard Company. He has been published in Leadership Journal and re:generation quarterly. He and his wife and four children are spending time this year in Europe while Jim is working on his next book. Jimbelcher65@gmail.com; www.thedeepchurch.com
PRE-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading
(Reading will account for 30% of your grade)

Reading Notations are due by the first day of class.

Students are asked to mark at least three passages/quotations that they consider significant or meaningful. These may be new insights, comments with which you disagree or have questions, a thesis statement or a concept you would like to discuss with peers and the professor. For each book, type out the three quotations or if it is a long passage summarize and list page numbers. These notations will be utilized in classroom interaction during the course and collected by the professor at the end of the week.

A Reading Summary Report (see sample below) is also due by the first day of class. Please email to dmin.orlando@rts.edu.


If additional reading is needed to complete 2000 pages of new reading please select from this list.


“Show and Tell” Project

*Bring to Class*

*(10% if Grade)*

Select and bring to class two cultural objects—one that demonstrates a narrative where God is not a reality and a second object (but not the Bible or a cross) that tells the story of a life lived for God, where He is present, involved in His creation, and not silent. Students will be required to “show and tell in front of the class.” Also, the student will be required to submit a one page, single space summary of their “show and tell” project.
POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS
Due by April 30, 2012

PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS CLOSELY
This is NOT our usual “Integration Paper and Reading Report”
All materials are submitted to dmin.orlando@rts.edu

Reflection Paper
50% of Grade

Students will write a 12-15 paper (topic chosen by the student and approved by Dr. Belcher [Jimbelcher65@gmail.com] on one of the four main topics of the class—

- Epistemology, how we know what we know and how it shapes the way we live
- “Exegeting” our culture and why this is important for Christians
- Pick one topic from one of the three categories—Self, Horizons, or Community—show why it is important for reaching this generation and how the Gospel best meets this reality
- The place and importance of worship in forming people who believe and live out the beauty and depth of Christianity.

Please write the paper in 12-point font, double-spaced with footnotes and bibliography. Footnotes and bibliography should conform to Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.

Reflection papers will be graded on: depth of analysis of both primary and secondary sources, the clarity of the paper’s main argument, and the quality of the writing and documentation.

Reading Summary Report (see following form)
30% of Grade

The Reflection Paper & Reading Report will be emailed to dmin.orlando@rts.edu no later than April 30, 2012
Save your Word documents with Yourlastname.ShowandTell.W12.RP(for Reflection paper, or RR for Reading Report)

PLEASE Avoid Late Papers
If an extension is necessary for June 15 you may notify the DMin office and pay $120. If your paper is not received by that date you will receive an F for the course.
[If there are extenuating circumstances you must send a written plea by June 8. Address request to the DMin Faculty Committee. dmin.orlando@rts.edu If they approve the second extension it will cost you a total of $220 & a grade deduction.]
Add Your Name  
Show and Tell, 2DM863  
Dr. Jim Belcher  
Add Date Completed  

Save this page as YourLastName.Show and Tell.W12.RR  
Email to dmin.orlando@rts.edu  

Reading Summary Report  

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