

Introduction to Evangelism 06PT5200
RTS - Dallas
(Spring 2021)
Revised 11/11/20

Instructor:

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Class Schedule:

Mondays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Central Time
(Jan. 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 22, 29; Apr. 5, 19, 26; May 3)

Additional Class Time Requirements: Have 6 evangelistic conversations with 6 individual non-Christians before May 3, 2021. (see details below)

I. Purpose of the Course

As per RTS catalog:

This course is designed to give you an introductory overview of the ministry of evangelism. The emphasis will be on helping you develop a more biblical and theological understanding of evangelism and equipping you to be more effective in your personal evangelism and in your ministry leadership roles as an equipper and facilitator of evangelistic ministries.

In addition to what the catalog says, I add:

This course is designed to help you think biblically about the gospel, what it is and what it is not. It also aims to help you wrestle with how to proclaim it in ways that remain faithful to the scriptures while being appropriate for your ministry setting. The course also seeks to develop skills in evangelism and in training members of the church to do the work of evangelists.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To develop biblical thinking about evangelism.
- B. To grow in practical skills of evangelism.
- C. To begin to develop a philosophy of ministry for training the church in evangelism.

III. Course Format

The course involves:

- 1) Reading (Packer; Newman *Questioning Evangelism* and *Unlikely Converts*, Keller) and writing response reports
- 2) classroom sessions of lectures and discussion
- 3) post-class evangelistic conversations and writing an evangelism journal report

Because the class involves discussion and processing of theology, missiology, ecclesiology, and complex issues AND because all class sessions will be conducted through Zoom, please do not have other programs open on your computer or phone while in the Zoom sessions.

Since evangelism involves conversation of the deepest kind, development of skills in this area will begin in class by avoiding technological distractions like text messages, email, Facebook, ESPN, News Apps, etc.

Because the class time is so concentrated and limited, attendance (and promptness) of all class sessions is required.

IV. Course Texts

Keller, Timothy, *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012)

Newman, Randy, *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2004, 2017)

NOTE: Please use the 2nd edition

Newman, Randy, *Unlikely Converts: Improbable Stories of Faith and What They Teach Us About Evangelism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2019)

Packer, J. I., *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012)

V. Course Requirements

- A. Read all of Packer and write a 1000 word response paper addressing: Your evaluation (not a summary) of the book's argument, strength of support from scripture, other strengths and weaknesses, and relevance for your anticipated sphere of ministry. Be sure to include a statement that you did indeed read the entire book. Due 9:00 am February 15, 2021
- B. Read all of *Questioning Evangelism* and write a 1000 word response paper addressing: Your evaluation (not a summary) of the book's argument, strength of support from scripture, other strengths and weaknesses, and relevance for

- your anticipated sphere of ministry. Be sure to include a statement that you did indeed read all the book. Due 9:00 am March 1, 2021
- C. Read all of *Unlikely Converts* and write a 1000 word response paper addressing: Lessons you hope to apply in your evangelism efforts in the future. Be sure to include a statement that you did indeed read all the book. Due March 22, 2021.
 - D. Read pages 13 – 132 and 181 - 289 of Keller and write a 1500 – 2000 word paper listing 5 significant lessons you learned as a result of your reading. For each lesson, only a small part (less than 20%) should be a summary of Keller's thoughts. The majority of what you write for each lesson should be what was new or challenging for you, how it compared to previous thinking on the topic, how it might shape your future ministry, and any other aspects of the impact of that part of the book. Be sure to include a statement that you did indeed read all required pages. Due April 19, 2021.
 - E. Have 6 individual conversations with 6 non-Christians outside of class. For at least three of the people you meet, you must articulate that Jesus died to pay for sins and articulate that people need to respond in faith in order to be saved. For the other three, your conversations can be pre-evangelistic.
 - F. Write a journal entry of 250 – 300 words for each conversation evaluating your experience. Record the date, time, place, and first name of the person you met. Briefly report what was discussed and how they responded. You must also include a 1000 word evaluation of your skill in presenting the gospel and what you need to improve upon for future evangelistic opportunities. Due May 3, 2021.
 - G. Submit a reading report indicating what percentage of the assigned pages you read on time, what percentage you read late, and what percentage you did not read at all. The easiest math comes from reading 100% on time! Due May 3, 2021 before 6 pm.

H. Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system:

- 100-97=A
- 96-94=A-
- 93-91=B+
- 90-88=B
- 87-86=B-
- 85-83=C+
- 82-80=C
- 79-78=C-
- 77-75=D+
- 74-72=D
- 71-70=D-
- below 70=F

Late Assignments Policy

Please do not ask my teaching assistant or me for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), turn in a written request for waiving the late penalty with the assignment to my teaching assistant. No assignments will be received after May 1, 2020.

Report of Reading:	20%
Packer Paper:	10%
Newman Papers:	20%
Keller Paper:	10%
Evangelism Journal:	40%

Note: The following audio recordings may be of particular help in the future:

- a. Collin Hansen and Sam Chan, "Evangelism in a Skeptical Age":
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/tgc-podcast/evangelism-skeptical-age/>
- b. Rosaria Butterfield, "How to Be Hospitable in a Post-Christian Age":
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/tgc-podcast/hospitable-post-christian-world/>
- c. Rico Tice and Becky Pippert, "Equipping God's People for Evangelism":
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/tgc-podcast/equipping-gods-people-for-evangelism/>
- d. Tim Keller, "What can Christianity offer our society in the 21st century?":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkcouxJE6o4>
- e. Tim Keller, "Public Faith": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzkspSXg2tM>
- f. Michael Ramsden, "Oxygen 18; Engaging with a Secular World":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nhEOpBRXGU>

Proctored Exams

All proctored exams (residential and distance/online) are to be arranged with a specific RTS Dallas faculty or staff member and are to be taken during one of the following time slots:

Monday 1:00pm-4:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 1:00pm-4:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

If a student is unable to take their proctored exam during one of the allotted time slots, that individual should approach a specific staff or faculty member and establish a time to take the exam. Students are not to expect to take a proctored exam without first establishing a time for the exam with a faculty/staff member.

RTS DALLAS - FINAL EXAM WEEK SCHEDULE

All course finals are expected to be taken during the respective block time assigned to the class during the semester. (Example: If *Course A* meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1-4pm, then students are to take the Course A final on Wednesday of finals week from 1-4pm.) Students who are unable to take the final during its allotted time must receive an exception from their professor to take it during one of the times set aside for proctored exams. If a student is unable to take the exam during one of time slots set aside for proctored exams, then that individual is responsible to establish with the professor a time slot to take the exam.