03PT5200R EVANGELISM

SYLLABUS

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Reformed Theological Seminary

Fall 2021

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**03PT5200R Evangelism**

**Reformed Theological Seminary**

**Charlotte, NC**

**(704) 688-4216**

**Fall 2021**

**Professor: Craig Sheppard, PhD E-mail:** [**csheppard@rts.edu**](mailto:csheppard@rts.edu)

**Time: Tuesday, 8-10 am Teaching Assistant: n/a Class Hours: 2**

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to acquaint the student with both the Biblical theology and the faithful practice of Evangelism. Specifically, the goal is to provide:

* An examination of relevant Biblical passages with particular attention given to the context of the encounter, the content of the message, and the methodology of the evangelist.
* An emphasis on the important role of the free offer of the gospel and its compatibility with the historic doctrines of the Reformed faith.
* An introduction to a variety of evangelism methods for use in large group (church and preaching), small group (special occasions, events, and hospitality), and individual contexts
* Basic skills in pre-evangelism, discerning points of contact for the gospel recipient, transitioning to spiritual conversations, clearly articulating the gospel itself, and providing basic follow-up for new believers.
* Ideas for beginning and sustaining church-based outreach ministries.

# COURSE READINGS

# Major readings:

1. Jerram Barrs, *Learning Evangelism from Jesus*, 288 pages [[click here](https://amzn.to/3wuQn0u) for Kindle version and paperback]
2. R.B. Kuiper, 1994 [1966]. *God-Centered Evangelism*: 247 pages. [[click here](https://amzn.to/35lLkU3) for book options]
3. Will Metzger, 2012. *Tell the Truth.*Parts I-III.Pp. 51-234; 183 pages [[click here](https://amzn.to/2TybfFv) for kindle and book options]
4. Richard Pratt, *Every Thought Captive.* 160 pages[[click here](https://amzn.to/3groTDn) for paperback]

# JI Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God.* 122pages. [[click here](https://amzn.to/3wqkWUX) for Kindle or book]

1. Charles Spurgeon, *The Soul Winner*. Chs. 1-2, 7-15. 131 pages. [[click here](https://amzn.to/3iJphhY) for kindle and book options]

Minor Readings:

1. William Carey, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*. 39 pages. [[Click here](https://amzn.to/3pTP88s) for kindle edition and book options]
2. Benjamin Morgan Palmer, *The Unknown Way.* 3 pages. [[click here](https://www.dropbox.com/s/9ar6pg8nkxbxdpn/BM%20Palmer%20The%20Unknown%20Way.docx?dl=0) for Word doc.]
3. Mark Dever: Evangelistic Expository Preaching: pages (2003) 122-139. 18 pages. [click here, after we input link to scanned pdf!]. Dever, Mark. “Evangelistic Expository Preaching,” *In Give Praise to God: A vision for reforming worship: Celebrating the Legacy of James Montgomery Boice*.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

1. **Read all assigned course materials.** A form to report the completion of these readings will also appear on the final exam.  This is worth 25% of the overall course grade.
2. **Submit seven (7) 1–2-page précis** of reading assignment on the dates required. A precis presents and summarizes the major theses and arguments of a book. The basic characteristics of an effective précis are conciseness, clarity, completeness. This is worth 7% of the overall course grade.
3. **Submit a brief summary** of three evangelistic appointments/opportunities, answering five main questions: 1) how did you transition to a spiritual conversation? 2) what was your presentation or "method?” 3) how far did you get (full gospel presentation)? 4) What was their response? 5) What did you learn or what would you do differently next time? This is worth 3% of the overall course grade
4. **Submit a written version of your personal testimony** of faith in Christ.
5. **Write a brief essay** (~5 pages, 1500 words) address the question, “Does God love everyone?” The essay is to look at various Biblical passages and provide a well-supported Biblical and confessional, answer. It is expected that the paper will also interact with opposing views and critically argue for one answer. It is expected that this paper will be marked by a solid introduction and conclusion(s), a clearly-stated outline/structure, solid academic argumentation, and a quality writing style with proper citation of multiple sources (3-5 minimum). This is due **Tuesday, Oct 26, 2021,** 11:59 pm Eastern Time. **It must be** **submitted on Canvas in MS Word format, and include a cover sheet and bibliography**.
6. **Write a longer essay** (~10 pages (3000 words) examining the Biblical compatibility of the doctrine of election and the free offer of the gospel.Relevant Biblical passage should be consulted to form the argument, along with scholarly writings on this topic. Some of the course readings address this topic and can provide additional resources to consult. It is expected that this paper will be marked by a solid introduction and conclusion(s), a clearly-stated outline/structure, solid Biblical and academic argumentation, and a quality writing style with proper citation of multiple sources (5 minimum). This is **due Dec 9, 2021**, at11:59 pm Eastern Time. **It must be** **submitted on Canvas in MS Word format, and include a cover sheet and bibliography**.
7. **Complete the final exam**, which will be a short-answer and essay exam, covering material discussed in class and all reading assignments. This final must be completed by **Dec 14, 2021** on Canvas. 3 hours are allowed for the exam.
8. **Participate in Class Discussions**

**GRADING**

The final course grade will be assigned according to the distribution indicated below, and in conjunction with the RTS grading scale. The Precis are due on the date assigned. Late Precis will receive a 50% penalty. Essays are subject to a penalty of 10% per week late (i.e., essays received on late day #1 to 7 will receive a 10% deduction; late day #8-14, 20%, etc.)

Breakdown of Semester Grade:

Class Attendance and Participation **5%**

Written Testimony: **5%**

Reading Assignments: **25%** (reported on the final exam)

Completion of seven Precis and three summaries of evangelistic events: **10%**

Essay #1 (God’s love) **10%**

Essay #2 (Election and the Free Offer) **20%**

Final Exam **25%**

**Contacting the Instructor**

Please contact the instructor by email at csheppard@rts.edu. Please indicate RTS Evangelism Course in the subject heading to indicate it’s not spam. Do not send questions to me via Canvas. I likely won’t see them quickly.

**Key dates:**

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**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: 03PT5200R Evangelism

Professor: Craig Sheppard, PhD

Campus: Charlotte Live-Sync

Date: Fall, 2021

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**   * **Strong** * **Moderate** * **Minimal** * **None** | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Articulation**  **(oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | 1. Essays interacting with Biblical themes and concepts. 2. Specific training in and student application of the key concepts of evangelism. 3. Final exam tests knowledge and ability to integrate course concepts and topics |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong | 1. Traces historic discussion of major Biblical themes related to evangelism thru the (last 250 years of church history. 2. Primary Biblical texts explored. 3. Examines the biblical basis and methods of evangelism, including an analysis and evaluation of various methods of modern evangelistic outreach |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | 1. Emphasizes a reformed theological understanding of the commands of scripture and methods to proclaim Christ. 2. Essays interact with Reformed and confessional themes relevant to evangelism 3. Presents a Reformed approach to evangelism, missions and church planting 4. Highlights Covenant theology as a lens for understanding the Biblical Theology of evangelism |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | 1. Explores the Trinitarian foundation of evangelism and emphasizes our dependence on God in all facets of gospel proclamation. 2. Emphasizes that the heart of the evangel is from a place of holiness and obedience. the ultimate purpose of evangelism is the glory of God |
| **Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Moderate | 1. Reformed methodology of evangelism presented 2. Emphasizes the need of evangelism from a proper Worldview and Anthropology. 3. Christian worldview is shown to be thoroughly missiological, and missions to be thoroughly Biblical. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong | 1. Course interacts with non-reformed understanding and approach to evangelism.  2. some exposure to winsomely engaging these alternate theologies, taking into account their contributions as well as limitations. |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Strong | 1. Instruction in the critical components and processes in establishing and maintaining a vital church-based outreach program (including personal outreach, pastoral outreach, pulpit evangelism, and prayer. |
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