Syllabus for RTS *Evangelism* RTS-Jackson – Fall 2021

***PT5200*** *Evangelism and Church Growth*

Professor: Clayton Quarterman, PhD

**PT5200** | 2 credit hours **Evangelism**.

The purpose of this course is to train students to be effective evangelists and to understand and use biblical principles and methods of **church growth**. Emphasis is placed on having an intense desire to reach the lost for Christ. The value of **small group** ministries and mobilizing the laity for growth and ministry are considered.

**Objectives** (What you will Know/Be/Do through this experience):

* Learnto be an effective evangelist, with an intense desire to reach the lost for Christ.
* Learn the biblical principles and methods of evangelism and church growth.
* Understand Church Growth in the context of God’s own mission
* Learn how to use small group ministries to mobilize the church for growth and outreach

# TOPICS

* Evangelism as a Program vs. involvement in God’s mission
* Reformed understanding of evangelism and church growth
* Historical and current Approaches to evangelism
* Evangelism in a post-Christian context
* Today’s challenges, opportunities, and obligations.
* Evangelism programs & education in the church

# Assignments & Grading:

 20 Reading: McGavran, pages 1-269; 4-page **Reading Report**: What did you learn in each of the IV sections?

 20 Reading: 450 pages Selected from List; 1-paragraph **Reading Reports**:
Which books did you read? What did you learn there?

 40 Practical Listening assignment (3 visits) and **Report Page**

 10 Small Group Participation

 10 Final Exam

100% TOTAL

## Reading List

McGavran, Donald A. Understanding Church Growth, pages 1-269

**Selected Readings (450 pages) from:**

Dayhoff, Allan. *Church in a Blues Bar: Rethinking Evangelism in a Post-Christian Culture.* 126 pp

Kuiper, R. B. *God-Centered Evangelism*, 242 pp

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, 125 pp

Petersen, *Evangelism as a Lifestyle,* 144 pp

Pippert, Rebecca Manley. *Out of the Salt-Shaker & into the World,* 186 pp

Smith, Morton H. *Reformed Evangelism,*  30 pp

Stott, *Our Guilty Silence,* 116 pp

Trotman, Dawson. “Born to Reproduce”. 47pp

 TOTAL 719 pp

#### Supplemental Bibliography:

Webcasts by PCAMNA.org

 Barrs, Jerram. *Learning Evangelism from Jesus*.

 McGavran, Donald. *The Bridges of God.*

#### CAVEAT regarding the Reading in McGavran:

 You may have a tendency to dismiss McGavran when he writes about “Church Growth” and Sociology. However, this negative feeling is largely due to the later developments of C. Peter Wagner and other authors who redirected this into a manipulative “Church Growth Movement”, giving Church Growth itself a bad name. We find little of that in this book, however.

 Another controversial issue you’ll find in McGavran is that of “homogeneous units”, which has been interpreted as a racist or segregationist principle. This is not the case in McGavran; this is a standard sociological principle that must be taken into account, and it will be discussed in class. It is certainly no reason to discount the work of McGavran.

 I consider McGavran to be one of the more biblically-based writers on church planting and mission. He does encourage the evaluation and use of sociological principles, but he gives solid theological foundations for his work, and I think careful consideration should be given to it.

# Practical Assignments:

## Listening Meetings

**Three meetings**: Try to meet someone each week (even different people) that you think you may wish to share with about Christ. **At least 3 times**, meet over coffee or a meal (or just a chance encounter) with someone (a non-Christian or someone whose faith you don’t know), and **LISTEN**! Pray ahead of time and afterwards. Although you may certainly share the Gospel if opportunity presents itself (and we pray that it will!), your assignment is simply to meet and LISTEN, then write a simple confidential note of the visit. Make me a simple list: Date, Place of meeting, Topics, and **What you learned about THEM** that can be useful in shaping your Gospel conversations.

 **Think over these questions:**

Did they open up and share any deeper needs or commitments? What did you LEARN?

Did you take steps toward friendship? Did they see Christ in your attitude?

What felt needs or interests were expressed? What might Christ offer for such needs?

How would knowing Christ deepen their interests and glorify God?

What is especially wonderful or interesting about this person?

How did I see God’s image in them?

## Small Group Participation

**Small Group Meeting**: Meet in a small group among your peers and discuss your evangelism encounters. You may spend time sharing about your spiritual life, family life, etc. Pray for one another.

# Final Exam

Final Exam Questions:

1. Evaluate your small group experience. How did it minister to you? What did you learn about the usefulness or problems of such groups? How can these help your church grow?

2. Evaluate your Listening experience. Did it help equip you for evangelistic encounters?

3. What is something meaningful you learned in the reading? Which book was most helpful to you?

4. Is it God’s Will for the church to grow? What if it isn’t growing? Explain.