

**Indiana Area Extension Course of Study School
The United Methodist Church**

Online Learning

Fall: 2022 – September 9/10, October 10, November 12

COS 523 Evangelism

Rev. Dr. Andrew D. Kinsey, Instructor

This course examines the biblical and apostolic roots of the church's evangelistic mission in the world. It also explores various aspects of the church's ministry of evangelism and the distinct contribution of the Wesleyan theological tradition to the church's universal mission of offering Christ. This course promotes vital theological reflection on the church's evangelistic practices, stressing the importance of a holistic approach to the Christian witness and mission.

Course Objectives

The course has the following objectives:

1. Explore the biblical and apostolic roots of evangelism, with attention given to both Old and New Testaments and the importance of the early church's witness in the practice of evangelism.
2. Interpret the Wesleyan emphasis on evangelism and discipleship within the wider Christian witness of the church.
3. Analyze contemporary issues in evangelism, such as debates on church growth methods, the relationship of evangelism and mission, the role of evangelism in spiritual formation and social justice, the relationship of preaching, catechesis, and witness to the practice of evangelism, and conceptions of evangelism in the modern and postmodern eras.
4. Focus on the practice of evangelism in the local church with emphasis on preaching, training of laity, long-range planning, and pastoral leadership.
5. Examine larger strategies and models for evangelism in the past, present, and future of the church.
6. Critically analyze and appreciate electronic and social media as instruments for evangelism.

Books

The following books are *required* reading:

William J. Abraham – *The Art of Evangelism: Evangelism Carefully Crafted into the Life of the Local Church* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1988/Reprint). ISBN – 13: 978-1-61097-664-0
(CONTACT Andy Kinsey to order this book!)

James Logan – *How Great a Flame! Contemporary Lessons from the Wesleyan Revival* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2005). ISBN – 0 88177 472 3

Sam Chan, *How to Talk about Jesus (Without Being That Guy): Personal Evangelism in a Skeptical World* (Zondervan, 2022). ISBN-13 978-0310112693

Mark R. Tisdale – *Go! Becoming a Great Commission Congregation* (Nashville: Foundry Books, 2017). ISBN – 13:978-0938162285

Kevin E. Ruffcorn – *Rural Evangelism: Catching the Vision* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Press, 1994) ISBN – 0 8066 2642 9

Students will want to contact Andy Kinsey if there is a problem ordering books, both in terms of obtaining the books and in terms of price. Andy can assist in this area.

Grading Grades for all students are assigned as letter grades [A, B, C, D, F]

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The following books are *recommended* reading for the work of evangelism (not required):

George G. Hunter III – *To Spread the Power: Church Growth in the Wesleyan Spirit*
(Abingdon Press: Nashville, 1987)

Eddie Fox & George E. Morris – *Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing*
(Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1986). ISBN – 0-88177-039-6.

Jan G. Linn – *Reclaiming Evangelism: A Practical Guide for Mainline Churches*
(St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998)

Jones, Scott – *The Evangelistic Love of God & Neighbor* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

Paul Nixon – *Fling Open the Doors: Giving the Church Away to the Community*
(Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002)

Eric H. Law – *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in the Multicultural Community* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1993)

Albert C. Outler – *Evangelism & Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1996)

Class Instructions

Please read the following instructions on how to write the papers.

1. Persons need to read the required books and come to class prepared with questions raised by the assigned materials as we share online via Zoom.
2. Persons are to follow the instructions on preparing written materials for the class.
3. All work prepared for the Course of Study will be typed on 8 ½ x 11 white paper, double-spaced, with Roman-type Font, 12 Point.
4. Persons are to use quotations from the books sparingly. The point is to put the argument of the text in your own words. Please give proper reference to those points in the body of the written material, using correct page numbers, etc. If using a work not on the required or recommended reading list, please share in appropriate form the name of the work (e.g., Author, Title, Publisher, Copyright, etc.).
5. Persons are to place a title on the top of written material, including the following:
 - a) Course Name, b) Course Number, c) Date Papers and Sermon are due, d) Your Name.
6. Staple the papers of the section together.

7. Submit all work to the instructor in person or via email.

Note: Using other documentation and property without acknowledgment, whether from a book, a journal, teacher, student, sermon service, lectionary aid, etc., is unacceptable. Stealing, or plagiarism, means failure for the course with notification sent to the Conference Registrar and the Division of Ordained Ministry. If you would like to have course work returned, please inform the instructor.

Class Preparation and Study

This course will bring together several disciplines: spiritual formation, practical theology, biblical study, preaching, leadership, and mission. Persons are strongly encouraged to keep up with the assignments and to integrate the work into the practice of ministry in the local church. A few suggestions for study include:

- 1) Read the material, if necessary twice.
- 2) Please write clearly, examining always the strengths and weaknesses of the work.
- 3) Allow for two hours of study outside of class for every hour in class.

Assignments and Class Time

Friday, September, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Book Review Assignment for this session:

1. William J. Abraham – *The Art of Evangelism*

Papers are to be **three to four** on *each of the above* books utilizing the following outline/structure to guide in writing the papers, by focusing on the following questions:

- 1) Share main argument of the book: What is this book about? Have a paragraph that captures the main point of the book.
- 2) List strengths of the book: What did you find helpful about what this author is saying about the ministry of evangelism? Share several paragraphs about what you felt were very good points.
- 3) List weaknesses of the book: Where do you see the author falling short? What was not helpful to you?
- 4) Answer the following: What implications does this book have on how you are practicing the ministry of evangelism in the church? Please take as much space as possible that deals with this question.

Local Church Description Assignment for tutorial time with Pastor Andy.

In addition, write a **three to four-page paper** describing the context of your local church or churches:

- Average Membership (share last seven years)
- Average Weekly Worship Attendance (last seven years)
- Location, Demography of Area & Brief History of Congregation

Share your joys and concerns about this particular congregation in light of the church's ministry of evangelism.

Saturday, September 10th 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Book Review Assignment for this session:

1. James Logan – *How Great a Flame! Contemporary Lessons from the Wesleyan Revival*

Write three to four page paper, utilizing the following format:

- 1) What is evangelism in the Wesleyan spirit look like according to Logan?
- 2) What is distinctive about the Wesleyan approach to evangelism and discipleship as compared to other Christian traditions?
- 3) What are the strengths and weaknesses of Logan's book?

Assignments and Class Time

Saturday, October 10th, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Book Reviews Assignment:

Sam Chan – *How to Talk about Jesus (Without Being That Guy): Personal Evangelism*
Kevin Ruffcorn – *Rural Evangelism*

Write three to four page papers on *each of the above* books addressing the following questions:

- 1) What are the main points of these works?
- 2) What strengths do you see in these books regarding the ministry of evangelism?
- 3) What weaknesses do you see?
- 4) What insights may assist you in the practice of evangelism in your local church?

Assignments and Class Time

Saturday, November 10th, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Book Review Assignment

Mark R. Tisdale – *Go! Becoming a Great Commission Congregation*

Write a three-to-four page paper on Tisdale's book and focus on the following questions:

- 1) What did you find helpful about Tisdale's book?
- 2) How do you assess Tisdale's book in light of the church's mission to make disciples?
- 3) How do you feel your church is doing in this ministry?
- 4) How do you see The United Methodist Church fulfilling this mission?

Evangelistic Sermon

Students will deliver and hand in a evangelistic sermon that they preach in the local church as part of this assignment. Sermons should focus on good exegesis of the scripture along with invitation and instruction to the congregation on the importance of the ministry of evangelism.

Summary of Class Assignments

The following assignments represent the work of the class:

Papers for the book reviews are due on September 9th

The Art of Evangelism (3 to 4 pages)
Description of Local Context of Ministry (3 pages)
How Great a Flame! (3 to 4 pages)

Papers for book reviews are due on October 10th

Talking about Jesus (3 to 4 pages)
Rural Evangelism (3 to 4 pages)

Sermon and book review are due on November 10th

Go! Becoming a Great Commission Congregation (3 to 4 pages)
Evangelistic Sermon

Setting Up Tutorial Sessions with Dr. Kinsey

If you need to set up a time to share, please know we can do so. No problem.

Devotion and prayer will take place during the class as part of the focus on evangelism, along with focus on key biblical passages.

****Please note: William J. Abraham's *The Art of Evangelism* will need to be ordered through Dr. Kinsey!**

Contact Andy by phone at 317-736-7962 or email at andykinsey@franklingrace.org.