



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/333-6254

EVG660 – Evangelism in the Wesleyan Spirit Online Fall 2010

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available under the Syllabus link in the Blackboard course. Additional information can be found at <http://bbwiki.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Blackboard support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Catalog Description

Wesley's holistic ministry included medicine, music and Christian education. It was also directed toward the poor, the intelligentsia, the imprisoned and other groups. He focused his ministry on multiple human needs in order to preach saving grace. His ministry shapes a paradigm for contemporary evangelistic effort.

Course Narrative & Rationale

Evangelism in its contemporary forms is better informed by the successes of the past, particularly as seen in the Wesleyan era. Evangelism takes on a larger focus when viewed as holistic, rather than simply verbal proclamation. While Wesley's ministry cannot to be copied, the evangelistic ministry of Wesley addressed issues present in his day and therefore identifies the value of contextualizing any effort to reach lost people.

Course Outcomes

1. The student will describe the historical context and flexibility of Wesley's ministry.
2. The student will understand the connection between Wesley's theology and ecclesiology and his evangelistic ministry.

3. The student will grasp the transcendent principles of evangelism amid the specific aims of Wesley's ministry.
4. The student will embrace a biblical theology of evangelism and ably connect it with a specific context of a future ministry location.
5. The student will develop leadership, analytical skills through practical experience that will better prepare her/him to serve as a missional leader.
6. The student will engage in spiritual dialogue and use a variety of media to reach the undisciplined.

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

CP 19 Ability to think globally and engage cross-culturally for the purpose of mission.

CP 20 Ability to preach evangelistically and to be engaged with and equip others in personal and congregational evangelism.

Required Texts & Course Materials

Logan, James C.(ed.) *Theology and Evangelism in the Wesleyan Spirit*. Abingdon Press.

Outler, Albert C. *Evangelism and Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit*. Discipleship Resources.

Snyder, Howard. *The Radical Wesley*. Wipf & Stock Publishers.

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Benefiel, Ron. "Christian Holiness and Ministry to the Poor: Toward a Wesleyan Missiology."
A lecture written in Jan. 2007.

Benefiel, Ron. "John Wesley's Mission of Evangelism". A lecture written in Dec. 2007.

Brendlinger, Irv. "John Wesley and Slavery: Myth and Reality." *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, 41, no.1 (Spring 2006): 223-243.

Collins, Kenneth J. "The Soteriological Orientation of John Wesley's Ministry to the Poor."
Wesleyan Theological Journal, 36, no.2 (Fall, 2001): 7-36.

Felton, Gayle Carlton. "John Wesley and the Teaching Ministry: Ramifications for Education in the Church Today." *Religious Education*. 92, no. 1 (Winter 1997): 92-196.

Henning, Robert. "Reform and Holiness for Prisoners: A Wesleyan Mission for the Twenty-First Century." *Wesleyan Theological Journal*. 38, no. 1 (Spring, 2003): 187-209.

Hughes, Melanie Dobson. "The Holistic Way: John Wesley's Practical Piety as a Resource for Integrated Healthcare." *Journal of Religion and Health*. 47, no.2 (June, 2008): 237-252.

Towns, Elmer L. "John Wesley and Religious Education." *Religious Education*. 65, no.4 (July-Aug, 1970): 318-328.

Tracy, Wes. "John Wesley's Perfect Marriage of Personal Holiness and Social Responsibility"
Rothwell Lecture 1, Southern Nazarene University, April 1997.

_____. "John Wesley: Preacher of Holiness." *Herald of Holiness*. (Feb. 1991): 24.

Course Outline (revise)

- Unit 1 Contextualizing evangelism
 - Wesley's England—the historical and social culture
 - England—the religious and political setting
- Unit 2 Compassionate evangelism
 - Formative influences in Wesley
 - Educational and prison reforms
 - Ministry to the poor; stewardship and medical help
- Unit 3 Communicating the gospel
 - Preaching and Wesley's sermons
 - Writing and music
 - Spiritual conversations
- Unit 4 Coming to Christ-likeness (disciple-making)
 - A theology of evangelism; prevenient grace and sanctification
 - Ecclesiology
 - Practicing evangelism; multiplication of leaders
 - Small group ministry
- Unit 5 Concepts distinctive of Wesleyan evangelism

Course Assignments & Requirements

1. Forums are interactive postings equivalent to class discussion. Forums will be due on Tuesdays. Postings will be on Moodle's Discussion Forum under the designated title. Grades will be determined for forums beginning the third week and then three more times throughout the course.
Up to fifty (40) points will be awarded each time based on the quality, including:
 - a. Theological and practical observations on the assigned reading;
 - b. Initiating conversation congruent with the topic being discussed;
 - c. Initial posts will be at least 100 words and responses to others a minimum of 50 words;
 - d. Correct grammar and spelling (160 points possible).
2. Assignments are due on Thursdays. Assignments will be posted on the gradebook in Moodle under the designated title. Nine assignments at 60 pts. each total 540 points possible.
3. Activities are reported on Fridays. Activities will have an assigned title posted on the gradebook in Moodle. Each activity earns 60 pts. each for a total of 300 points. Activities will require advanced preparation, so plan immediately to carry out the following five activities:
 - a. Interview two community leaders;
 - b. Interview two pastors from other denominations in your town;
 - c. Give three hours to ministry to the needy;
 - d. Preach evangelistically;
 - e. Engage eight (8) unchurched people in spiritual conversation.

Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments should be submitted through the corresponding link in the Learning Unit. Assignments should not be submitted by hardcopy, fax or email.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

All research/project work is due 11:57 PM of the date assigned. Late posts receive a 10% daily reduction the week of the assignment. Postings after the assigned week will not be graded. No work will be accepted beyond seven (7) days of the due date.

Course Grading

Grading will be based on:

910-1000 = A

810-909 = B

710-809 = C

610-709 = D

000-609 = F

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
	1	<p>Forum—Post information helpful to others knowing something about you by Tuesday. Write about your present ministry assignment, future plans and your present interest and knowledge about both evangelism and John Wesley.</p> <p>Reading—Read Wes Tracy’s articles, “The Lengthening Shadow of Mr. Wesley” and “John Wesley’s Perfect Marriage.”</p> <p>Forum--Answer the following questions and post on influence forum by Tuesday:</p> <p>Lengthening shadow questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How important is it to “leave nothing” the way Wesley did? 2. If we were to use Wesley’s method of “surveying the needs of the time and then bringing to bear on them the finest resources of the Christian faith,” what issues might we address in today’s world? <p>Wesley’s perfect marriage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where you live, what are some of the ways the poor suffer today and how can the church respond? 2. How should the church be ministering to the sick in our times? 3. What is your opinion of the “micro-finance” ministry Wesley started? 4. How can the church help people financially? <p>Activity—Interview two (2) community leaders, e.g. social worker, hospital emergency room personnel, police, educator or politician. Post to the community leader forum and assignment on Friday a brief description of your two interviewees. Note the injustices and concerns present in your community. Post a synopsis and conclusions from your interviews. Compare your community to Wesley’s day.</p>
	2	<p>Forum--Post a reflection on Ron Benefiel’s “Christian Holiness and Ministry to the Poor: Toward a Wesleyan Missiology.” Also interact with other students’ posts on the Benefiel forum.</p> <p>Activity-- Interview two pastors regarding openness to religion, church and the gospel in your community. Imagine a receptivity-resistant axis (using a scale of 1-10, ten being most receptive) indicate where your community is. Give rationale for your conclusion. Raise the questions yet to be answered about your community. Based on your community’s receptivity suggest strategies for connecting with your community. Post your observations and conclusions to community forum and activity. Interact twice with others’ postings.</p>
	3	<p>Reading--Snyder chapters 1-2.</p> <p>Forum—Post your observations on ID forum about the identity issues in John Wesley’s life. What made him the person he became? Describe the</p>

		<p>motivational factors observable in his life and ministry. Make two responses to others' input.</p> <p>Assignments— Write a self-analysis (minimum 3 pages) sharing defining moments, spiritual impulses and personal influences in your life. Describe your motivation and your passions came to be a part of who you are. Include what you see to be your life's purposes?</p>
	4	<p>Reading—Wes Tracy' article, "Christian Education in the Wesleyan Mode" <u>Wesleyan Theological Journal</u>, Spring 1982.</p> <p>Forum—Discuss the relevancy of Wesley's approach in your context on CEd forum.</p> <p>Assignments—Research and write a four page paper on Wesley's educational endeavors and on his prison ministries. Include bibliographical sources for both topics.</p>
	5	<p>Reading—Snyder chapter 3 and Logan chapter 8.</p> <p>Assignments—Write a four page paper connecting evangelism and compassionate ministries.</p> <p>Activity—Give three hours to ministry among the needy. Post to gradebook and ministry forum a listing of your ministry involvements. Describe what you did, how people responded and what relationships/contacts were begun. How would you change, improve or alter your ministry to the poor/needy?</p>
	6	<p>Reading-- Logan chapter 4 and "John Wesley: Preacher of Holiness" <u>Herald of Holiness</u>, Feb. 1991, and the lecture "The Impact of Wesley's Sermons."</p> <p>Forum—Who influenced you the most through preaching? What about the preaching event inspired or instructed you? How does Wesley inform the task of proclamation? Post on preaching forum.</p> <p>Assignments— Write 3 new evangelism sermon outlines with scripture references and describe how you will develop the text and a call for decision. Note any bibliographic references.</p> <p>Activity—Preach on the topic of evangelism. Post your sermon title, scripture and an outline of what you said. Explain the evangelistic appeal you made. What were the results of your call for decision?</p>
	7	Reading and Research Week
	8	<p>Reading--"An Open Letter to a Catholic" and _____ written by Wesley.</p> <p>Forum—Discuss the relevancy of writing as a means of evangelism. How does a personal defense against slander, gossip and misunderstanding affect evangelism? How does ecumenism aid evangelism? Post letter forum.</p> <p>Assignments— Determine the issues pertaining to your community or congregation—the questions or tensions present in your world. Write a short (2-3 pages) position paper helping the average person understand a biblical/theological response to one conflictive issue. (Think of this paper as a tri-fold available in the foyer of your church.) Post to conflict assignment.</p>
	9	<p>Reading--Lecture "Disciple-Building Conversations," Logan chapter 6 and Wesley Tracy, "John Wesley Spiritual Director" <u>Wesleyan Theological Journal</u>, 1988.</p> <p>Forum—Post to conversations forum the five principles you draw from your reading. Note how these concepts differ or reinforce what you already do in witnessing.</p> <p>Activity—Engage in 8 spiritual conversations. Report on each conversation. Give the first name, occasion or setting, content of the conversation, the results of the dialogue and propose next steps in the relationship.</p>

10	<p>Reading--Read the lecture, “The Development of Wesley’s Theology,” and the article, “The Nature of Wesleyan Theology,” <u>Wesleyan Theological Journal</u>, J.Kenneth Grider, Fall 1982. Read an additional 50 pages on the doctrine of holiness.</p> <p>Forum—Post on holiness forum three significant quotations from your reading. Explain why you found these quotations important or valuable. Cite the bibliographic data for your 50 pages.</p> <p>Assignment--Write a three page paper uniting holiness and evangelism.</p>
11	<p>Reading—Hal Knight’s article, “John Wesley and the Emerging Church,” lecture on “Wesley’s Ecclesiology,” Snyder chapters 6-8 and Logan chapter 3.</p> <p>Forum-- Discuss on church forum the statement, “Wesley had no ecclesiology.” How is that accurate and inaccurate?</p> <p>Assignment--Write a three page paper defining Wesley’s doctrine of the church.</p>
12	<p>Reading—The lecture, “John Wesley as Church Growth Strategist,” Snyder chapters 9-12 and Logan chapter 9.</p> <p>Forum—Discuss in leader forum the perspectives of the lecture and the reading in Snyder and Logan. Resource each other for a missional strategy of multiplying evangelistic leaders</p> <p>Assignment— Write a three page plan for training and deploying missional leaders in your congregation.</p>
13	<p>Reading—Three lectures, “Rationale and Evaluation of Class Meetings,” “The Impact of the Class Meeting” and “Wesley’s Theological Foundations for Disciple-Making.”</p> <p>Forum--Describe on disciple forum how your congregation develops disciples, what the obstacles are and how those can be overcome. Discuss “How can we as a congregation better make disciples?” Respond to two other postings.</p>
14	<p>Reading—The lecture “The Uniqueness of Wesley’s Evangelism,” Ron Benefiel’s paper, “John Wesley’s Mission of Evangelism” and Logan chapters 1-2.</p> <p>Forum--Study Romans 15:14-20. From scripture and Wesley’s practices define and describe holistic evangelism. Respond to two other posts in holistic forum.</p> <p>Assignment—Write a 3 year plan for evangelizing your community through your congregation.</p>

Bibliography