

EV500: THE ART OF EVANGELISM. Richard Peace, Professor of Evangelism and Spiritual Formation;
Online Facilitation by Kimberley Thacker, Adjunct Instructor in Evangelism.

DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to communicate a vision for evangelism based on the paradigm of spiritual pilgrimage. In this light, the variety of ways in which people start moving toward Jesus will be considered (Quest); as will the nature and character of conversion (Encounter); and the subsequent process of spiritual growth (Formation). All this will be placed in a biblical and historical context. This theoretical foundation will then provide the background for a multifaceted discussion of how one goes about planning and executing a viable, on-going, *church-based* program of evangelism.

RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY:

Evangelism is the process of communicating the Good News to those who have not heard it or who have not yet responded to it. As such, evangelism is a prime responsibility of the church. Unfortunately, in North America evangelism is often conceived of (both inside and outside the church) as something that is coercive, manipulative, and bad mannered. In fact, genuine New Testament evangelism is characterized by a warm-hearted, loving desire on the part of "one beggar to tell other beggars where to find bread" (D. T. Niles). The aim of this course is to help students learn how to do evangelism in this spirit. It is hoped that they will become knowledgeable about evangelism, skilled in certain church-based methodologies, and motivated to do evangelism.

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will also interact with the material through journaling, threaded discussions and live Internet "chats", and web-based research. Lectures for each lesson will be available through audio streaming.

REQUIRED READING:

- Abraham, William. *The Logic of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.
- Mittelberg, Mark. *Building a Contagious Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
OR McLaren, Brian. *More Ready Than You Realize*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Peace, Richard. *A Church's Guide to Evangelism*. Boston: Evangelistic Association of New England, 1982.
_____. *Conversion in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly Threaded Discussions, Journaling, and Web research.
2. Interactive book reflections on the Green, Abraham, and Peace (Conversion) books.
3. A project involving the design of a year-long outreach project for a church or organization; or the development of a case study of an outreach venture (10 pp.).

PREREQUISITES:

None.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM:

Meets M. Div. core requirement in Evangelism (MIN 3) or the requirement in Ministry Foundations (MINF) for other master's degrees: MA in Global Leadership Foundational studies.

FINAL EXAMINATION:

None.