



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

## EV510 – Evangelism in the Local Church

### Course Developer and Instructor: Dr. Jim Singleton

Fall 2021 (September 7<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021)

#### Required Web Meetings:

September 21st (8-9 PM ET/7-8 PM CST/5-6 PM PT)

October 19th (7-8 PM ET/6-7 PM CST/4-5 PM PT)

November 16th (8-9 PM ET/7-8 PM CST/5-6 PM PT)

December 7th (7-8 PM ET/6-7 PM CST/4-5 PM PT)

### Contacts

Course Instructor: Dr. Jim Singleton ([jsingleton@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:jsingleton@gordonconwell.edu))

Flourish Registrar: [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org)

### Course Description

The course provides a comprehensive and practical introduction to the theology and practice of evangelism, particularly in and through the local church. It is designed to prepare pastors and church leaders in fostering the evangelistic outreach of individuals and of the congregation as a whole. The course focuses on the nature of congregational life and how it impacts the type of outreach and missional texture it promotes. Further, there is attention to the change process associated with moving a congregation into a new direction.

### Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Become familiar with some of the best current representative works in the field of evangelism.
2. Articulate a theology of evangelism that is faithful to Scripture in content and consistent with our larger historic evangelical heritage across the millennia.
3. Verbally communicate the gospel in language that is unambiguously clear to your own identified audience(s) without religious jargon and express the gospel personally with appropriate vulnerability.

- Gain skill in understanding the context for implementing plans of evangelism in the local church.

## Course Modality

This course is offered online at [flourishmovement.org](http://flourishmovement.org). This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for four (4) web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. Finally, students will be placed in small groups of 4-6 students. During select lessons, groups will find a mutually convenient time to meet together for discussion and group activities. More information can be found within the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

## Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called “Lessons,” one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Dates	Lesson Title
1	Sept. 7-13	Introducing Evangelism
2	Sept. 14-20	One Big Problem – “Harvest is Plentiful, but...”
3	Sept. 21-27	Biblical Calls to Evangelism
4	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	What is Evangelism?
5	Oct. 5-11	Historical Sweep
6	Oct. 12-18	Congregational Paradigms of Church
7	Oct. 19-25	A Look at the Grand Narrative of Scripture
8	Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Meeting Jesus
9	Nov. 2-8	Teaching Evangelism
10	Nov. 9-15	Theology and Culture
11	Nov. 16-22	Building an Evangelistic Culture

12	Nov. 23-29	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Coursework Due</b>
13-14	Nov. 30-Dec. 13	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

## Course Requirements

### I. Readings and Reading Reports

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through [www.gctscharlottebookstore.com](http://www.gctscharlottebookstore.com) or any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report on October 13 (mid-term report) and at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others). There is also opportunity for you to indicate substitute or extra reading in consultation with the instructor.

#### Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- Chan, Sam. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018. (288 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-310-53467-9)
- Everts, Don. *The Reluctant Witness: Discovering the Delight of Spiritual Conversations*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2019. (166 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-0830845675)
- Keller, Timothy. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. (382 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-0310494188)
- Kreider, Alan. *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2016. (321 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-0801049494)
- Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. Revised and Enlarged Ed. New York: HarperOne, 1943, 2015. (231 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-0060652920)
- Rawson, Katie J. *Crossing Cultures with Jesus: Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 2015. (205 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-0830844388)
- Richardson, Rick. *You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2019. (279 pages) (ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-4154-7)

- Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Ninth Ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. (ISBN-13: 978-0226430577)

### Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Kibbe, Michael, *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015. (ISBN-13: 978-0830851317)
- Zissner, William, *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ed. New York, Harper Perennial, 2016. (ISBN-13: 978-0060891541)

The texts provide a practical foundation for the ministry of evangelism and discipleship in a local church. My desire is to entice you to a life-long love of reading in these fields.

Each student will write a **Reading Report** for each work read, first describing the **central thesis** of the book (usually a paragraph), followed by a critical analysis of what in this book was helpful in crafting your ministry (two paragraphs).

Due dates for Reading Reports are located in the course site.

## II. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

## III. Activities and Assignments

Students will complete various individual and group activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

## IV. Web Meetings with Instructor

Meet four times during the semester (60 minutes) with your Course Instructor to discuss course content, learnings, and as well as your projects. Meeting dates are provided at the top of the syllabus. A meeting verification will be required at the end of the course.

## V. Four Letters Project

Each student will prepare and send 4 “letters” to a non-Christian. You will find an “editor” (family member, friend, someone in the community) who to the best of your knowledge is not a Christian. You are asking them for their candid comments about your work. These respective papers may be submitted to the same Editor or to different individuals, or even multiple editors, as you wish. You are also encouraged to find a colleague in class or in your congregation with whom you can share these “letters.”

Write each paper with an “audience of one” in mind, i.e. the individual with whom you will be sharing the paper. Keep foremost in your thinking his/her interests and needs. For the reflection-discussion papers you provide (for me) a paragraph about the “editor” To whom you will send the paper.

Full descriptions of this project, including due dates, can be found in the course site.

## VI. Project/Final Paper

In lieu of a final exam, students will complete a hands-on project that provides the student with practical experience in the course discipline. There are two options. One option will be preaching two sermons inviting a congregation to be inspired to do evangelism in their daily lives. The second option would be to design and teach a four-week class on personal evangelism during the month of November. The class could be taught in your local congregation or to a small group of your choosing. The written project will be a reflection (5 pages) of how the project was received and its impact, and what you learned from doing the project. For either project consider a testing component to note what people know and have experienced in the beginning and then a post-test to see what they retained. Please select what your project will be by the October Zoom class so that you have time to execute it.

## VII. Course Reports

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, and class web-meetings attendance.

## Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

Last updated: July 19, 2021

FirstinitialLastname\_AssignmentName\_MMDDYY

example: JSmith\_ResearchPaper\_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

## Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

### Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Lesson Assignments and Activities	15%
Reading Reports	20%
Meetings with Course Instructor	5%
4 Letters Project	30%
Final Project and Report	30%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

## Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact [charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu).

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

## Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.



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If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be October 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- September 17<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 100% refund
- October 1<sup>st</sup> – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 80% refund
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 50% refund
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Last day to drop Fall course(s) with no refund

*Once December 3<sup>rd</sup> passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.*

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? – Romans 10:14*