

The Art of Postmodern Evangelism Syllabus
1P3121 College / 2P3121 Seminary
(One Credit Hour)

Stephen Harper
March 27, 31 & April 3, 2010

COURSE LOCATION

Simon Fraser University ([In the Interfaith Center \(AQ 3200\) which is located in the bottom floor of the Academic Quadrangle. Parking is available in Lot C](#))

COURSE DATE

March 27,	9:00 – 5:00
March 31,	7:30 – 9:30
April 3,	9:00 – 5:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ever since Jesus gave the command to, “go and make disciples”, evangelism has been one of the foundational tasks of the Church, and we in the evangelical wing of the church have taken the task particularly seriously. We devote much time to it, spend vast sums of money both developing programs and then training people to implement those programs, not to mention the countless books written on the subject. Yet in spite of all of these efforts, we have seen fewer and fewer “returns” on our “investment” of time, talent and treasure over recent years. In fact, we have not only seen a decrease in the effectiveness of our evangelistic methodologies in the last forty years, but we have also experienced a dramatic decrease in both church attendance and the overall amount of influence that the church has on and in the society and culture surrounding it. What has happened?

The Art of Postmodern Evangelism explores this question and offers some practical solutions to effectively engaging culture in the 21st century.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the participants will:

1. Have a greater understanding of the cultural nuances that make up the postmodern milieu.
2. Examine how they have shared the gospel in the past as well as briefly looking at some of the ways the larger church community has shared the gospel in the past.

3. Learn the evaluative skills that will help them to identify, exegete and understand both their own cultural preconceptions and those of the postmodern audience that they are involved with.
4. Implement their findings and become more engaged with the pre-Christian groups around them, (i.e. neighbors, coworkers, family members, et al.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-course Assignment: Write a brief post about why you're taking this course and what you hope to see, learn, and experience and email it to sharper11@gmail.com by March 17, 2010. This will be worth 10% of the student's final grade.

Reading Assignment: Students will read each of the following books and write a reaction paper(s) on the book(s).

1. Halter, Hugh and Mat Smay. *The Tangible Kingdom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
 2. Kinnaman David, and Gabe Lyons. *UnChristian*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Those taking the course for **college** credit will be required to write a two-page (typed and double-spaced) reaction to **one** of the book selections. This will be worth 30% of the student's final grade.
 - Those taking the course for **seminary** credit will write a two-page (typed and double-spaced) reaction paper to **each** of the book selections. These will each be worth 15% of the student's final grade.

This is not a critique, but your personal reaction to the book's content. You liked it because . . . or you did not like it because . . . ? It was helpful or not helpful because . . . ? The reaction papers will be due on the first day of class.

Assessment Inventories: On the first day of class students will be asked to complete a brief hermeneutical inventory and a brief lifestyle inventory. These will each be worth 10% of the student's final grade.

Seminar Reaction and Review: On the last day of class each student will complete a review of the course, course materials, and the instructor. This will be worth 10% of the student's final grade.

Post-course Assignment: Each student will write an integrative response paper on "Cultural Engagement in a Postmodern Context". The paper will include their theories on how cultural

engagement should be carried out in a postmodern context and provide both theological and practical support for those theories. The student will be expected to consult the writings of some of the current and key thinkers on the subject and include a number of references from outside of the course reading list. The paper should have headings and subheadings, footnotes, and a bibliography following the form of Turabian (7th edition).

- **For students taking the course for College credit:** The paper should be 6-8 pages in length (typed and double-spaced).
- **For students taking the course for Seminary credit:** The paper should be 8-10 pages in length (typed and double-spaced).

The paper is due on **May 4, 2010**. This will be worth 40% of the student's final grade. Please send an electronic copy to the professor by **May 4, 2010**. <mailto:sharper11@gmail.com>
Late Penalties: Late assignments will lose one grade point for each day that the assignment is overdue unless extenuating circumstances apply, or the student has been granted an extension prior to the due date of the assignment.

GRADING

The seminar grade will be determined by the following factors and percentages:

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| ○ Pre-seminar Assignment | 10% |
| ○ Reading Assignment(s) | 30% |
| ○ Assessment Inventories (In Class) | 10% |
| ○ Seminar Reaction and Review | 10% |
| ○ Post-seminar Paper | 40% |

Supplementary Bibliography

- Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping Of Things To Come*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.
- Halter, Hugh and Mat Smay. *The Tangible Kingdom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
- Hirsch, Allan. *The Forgotten Ways*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006.
- Hunter III, George, G. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Kinnaman David, and Gabe Lyons. *UnChristian*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- McLaren, Brian, D. *A Generous Orthodoxy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2006.
- *Church on the Other Side*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004.
- *Everything Must Change*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- McNeal, Reggie. *Missional Renaissance*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009.
- Raschke, Carl. *Globo Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism: Outside the Box*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
- Sweet, Leonard. *Aqua Church*. Loveland, Colorado: Group Publishing, 1999.
- *Soul Sunami*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1999.
- *So Beautiful*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009.
- *The Gospel According to Starbucks*. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2007.
- Webber, Robert, E. *Ancient-Future Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- *The Younger Evangelicals*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.