

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
Institute of Salesian Spirituality – Fall 2014  
STSP3081 – Post-modern Evangelization

3.0 units (5 ECTS) – Day/ Day: time, place

Instructor: John Roche, SDB  
1831 Arch Street Phone: 510-204-0823  
Berkeley, CA 94709 E-mail [jrochesdb@aol.com](mailto:jrochesdb@aol.com)

## Course Description

The “new evangelization” first proposed by Paul VI and strongly endorsed by St. John Paul II reaches far beyond older definitions of mission outreach. In this present moment, wrestling with the “dictatorship of relativism” (Pope Benedict XVI) and the call to God’s mercy (Pope Francis), religious educators have a duty to understand the times and to respond accordingly. An appropriate response demands of the educator and minister the high levels of integration and a deep personal faith. At issue is the debate between seeing God’s hand and sensing an absence of religious influence and authority in the public square. This course examines the complexity of this present moment in both the Church and culture within a North American context. By examining the cumulative impacts of globalization and secularization and by referencing prophetic voices addressing these evolving realities, the students will become conversant with various models of theology and spirituality which aptly demonstrate and reinforce the conviction that the Gospels are up to the challenges and tasks presented in this milieu. Among many of these prophetic voices has risen a discernible strain advocating the power of the shared journey of faith and a spirituality of accompaniment. A special focus will be given to various models of this shared journey as a fecund response to this challenging new moment. The course is designed as a facilitation by lecture, personal reading, and group discussion integrating three reflection papers designed for three distinct movements in the examination of this historical and cultural moment.

## Course Outline and Calendar

*Week beginning Thursday, September 4, 2014:*

Introduction: A New Moment, a New Evangelization, a New Opportunity

1. Charting the course objectives and overview of content
2. A New Cultural Moment and a New Formation (Examining contributions of major researches in theological and pastoral responses to this cultural moment)

*Week beginning Monday, September 8, 2014:*

Examining the Context of the Western World

1. Defining the Western Context for a New Moment: How Did We Get Here?
2. A Period of Diminishment (Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI)

*Week beginning Monday, September 15, 2014:*

Secularization and Globalization

1. Enlightenment North American Style
2. Maintenance versus Initiative

*Week beginning Monday, September 22, 2014*

The Many Faces of Secularity

1. Theology in a Radically New Context (Dermot Lane)
2. Post 9/11 & New Globalization

*Week beginning Monday, September 29, 2014:*

Naming the North American Context

1. Return to Religion in the Public Square (Dermot Lane)
2. Theology Between Modernity & Post-Modernity

*Week beginning Monday, October 6, 2014*

The Intersection of Culture and Communication

1. Post-Modernity (Dermot Lane)
2. Post Modernity and Secular Age (Charles Taylor)

*Week beginning Monday October 13, 2014*

Secularity versus God's Design

1. The Malaise of Post-Modernity (Charles Taylor)
2. Examining Charles Taylor (Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ)

*Week beginning Monday October 20-24, 2014: Reading Week Break*

*Week beginning Monday October 27, 2014*

Gospel Passions: Up to the Task (Dr. Leonard Sweet)

1. Passions of Provenance and Beauty
2. Passions of Rarity and Sharing the Journey

*Week beginning Monday October 27, 2014:*

A Grace and Necessity for the Moment: Accompaniment

1. Incarnation as Model of the Dynamic Relationship Between Theology and Science

2. Education and Formation Taking Shape in Spiritual Accompaniment (Sr. Giuseppina Del Core, FMA)

*Week beginning Monday, November 3, 2014:*

Accompaniment Defined

1. Defining a Spiritual Accompaniment (Sr. Giuseppina Del Core, FMA & Fr. Jesús Manuel Garcia, SDB)
2. The Dimensions of Relationship and the Tasks of a New Accompaniment

*Week beginning Monday, November 10, 2014:*

Of Movements, Reactions, and Apologetics

1. Naïve Nostalgia, Apologetics, and Contemporary Reactions (Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI)
2. Movements Not Born of Institution (Fr. Routhier)

*Week beginning Monday November 17, 2014: (Thanksgiving November 24)*

Diffusing the Gospel to the Capillaries: Responding to the Disappearance of Significant Christian Presence in Society

1. The Arenas of Science and Culture, Family Life, Social and Political Activity
2. A Flexible and Immediate Church: New Models

*Week beginning Monday November 24, 2014:*

New Models of Spirituality in a Time of Purification

1. The Kenotic Gift of God in Christ: the Biblical Model of our Time
2. Missionaries to Our Time and Culture

*Week beginning Monday December 1, 2014:*

Models of Accompaniment

1. Capturing Hearts, Ministers of Beauty, Transcending and Transforming Fears
2. Ministers of Mystery, Weavers of Wholeness and Organic Unity

*Week beginning Monday December 8, 2014(Semester ends December 12):*

Catching the Love of God

1. Sacraments of Compassion
2. Holiness and Experience

## Required Reading

CREASY-DEAN Kenda, *Practicing Passion*, Grand Rapids, Wm. B. Erdmans Publishing Company, 2004.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0802847126 Retail price: \$25.00

NOLAN Albert, *Jesus Today: A Spirituality of Radical Freedom*, New York, Orbis Books, 2008.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1570756726 Retail price: \$15.00

ROLHEISER Ronald, editor and author, *Secularity and the Gospel: Being Missionaries to our Children*, Crossroads, New York, 2006.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0824524128 Retail price: \$19.95

SWEET Leonard, *The Gospel According to Starbucks: Living with a Grande Passion*, Waterbrook Press, Colorado Springs, 2007.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1578566495 Retail price: \$13.99.

TAYLOR Charles, *A Secular Age*, Cambridge MA, Belknap Press, 2007

**ISBN-13:** 978-0674026766 Retail price: \$40.27

*Instructor's Notes:* ROCHE, John (copyright Salesian Society, Don Bosco Hall)

## Additional Reading

BLY Robert, *The Sibling Society: An Impassioned Call for the Rediscovery of Adulthood*, New York, Vintage Books, 1996.

CHITTISTER Joan, *The Flame in These Ashes: A Spirituality of Contemporary Religious Life*, New York, Sheed & Ward, 1995.

KIMBALL Dan, *They Like Jesus But Not the Church: Insights from an Emerging Generations*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2007.

ROHR Richard, *Near Occasions of Grace*, Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 1993.

ROHR Richard, *From Wild Man to Wise Man: Reflections on Male Spirituality*, Cincinnati, St. Anthony Messenger Press, <sup>3</sup>2005.

STRAUSS William, and HOWE Neil, *Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069*. Reprint ed. New York, William Morrow, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*, New York, Random House, 2000.

STROMMEN Merton P. *Five Cries of Youth*. New and revised ed. San Francisco, Harper & Row, 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Passing on the Faith: A Radical New Model for Youth and Family Ministry*, Saint Mary's Press, Minneapolis, 2000.

SWEET Leonard, CROUHY Andy, Mc LAREN Brian D, McMANUS Erwin Raphael, HORTON Michael, MATTHEWES-GREEN Frederica (Ed.) *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives*, Michigan, Zondervan, 2003.

TWENGE Jean M., *Generation Me*, New York, Free Press, 2006.

WALLIS Jim, *The Great Awakening: Seven Ways to Change the World*, New York, Harper Collins, 2008.

## Sources

(An extended bibliography is being compiled. There are many pertinent publications just now available to add to this list.)

## Assignments

The required reading serves as the foundation for further discussion. The students are expected to participate in class discussions and to complete the writing of three theological reflections on subjects offered in relation to the class material.

John Roche, SDB

E-mail: [JRochesdb@aol.com](mailto:JRochesdb@aol.com)

(510) 204-0823

## Catalogue Description

### **STSP3081 – Interactive Evangelization**

Faculty (DSPT)

3.00 units

Days and Times DSPT or ISS

This course examines the present moment in both Church and culture within a North American context. By examining the cumulative impacts of globalization and secularization and through the works of Charles Taylor, Dermot Lane, Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, and Dr. Leonard Sweet we can bring insight into these realities. The students will become conversant with various models of theology and spirituality which boldly demonstrate that the Gospels are up to the challenges and tasks presented in this era. Among these prophetic voices is a discernible strain advocating the power of the shared journey of faith and a spirituality of accompaniment. A special focus will be given to the models of this shared journey as a fecund response to this new moment. The course is lecture and discussion based with three reflection papers designed for three distinct movements in the examination of this new moment.

## Written Work

### STSP3081 – Post Modern Evangelization

Faculty (DSPT)

#### **Option One: Three Theological Reflections:** *(in partial fulfillment for MA portfolio)*

The students in the Interactive Evangelization Course are asked to bring their own experience of faith and ministry to bear on the issues surrounding a Post-Modern approach milieu and the task of evangelization.

This is to be done by choosing any topic of salient and pertinent interest arising from the class content and offering a 5 to 10 page theological reflection. One such reflection would be due in the middle of each month, October, November, and December.

Research is not necessary, though certainly acceptable.

These are the basic requirements for the course. There will be no written or oral exam.

#### **Due Dates:**

- October 16, 2014
- November 24, 2014
- December 11, 2014

#### **Option Two: A Multi-media Class Presentation** *(also in partial fulfillment of the MA portfolio)*

In lieu of these three papers, a student may choose to make a classroom presentation using multi-visual aids. This choice requires notification of the instructor for the appropriate scheduling of such presentations. The presentations may range from 25 minutes to 45 minutes.

#### **Option Three: A Research Paper** *(fulfillment of the MA portfolio)*

Those wishing to delve more deeply into the subject matter at hand and to work within the portfolio for the MA Theology requirement may meet with the instructor to decide upon a full research topic related to the course. This paper will challenge the student to go beyond the resources of the course to examine in greater detail the current research in this area of theology and invites the student to make a new contribution to the content of the course. This paper should be 15 to 20 pages and should include a full source bibliography as well as footnotes and appendices as needed. The decision to choose this option should be made no later than September 22 with an outline presented to the instructor for review and approval.

**Moodle Postings:**

Class discussion will be supplemented by ongoing postings at the class Moodle site. To sign into Moodle, the class participants should log onto Moodle at [www.moodle.gtu.edu](http://www.moodle.gtu.edu). Each participant will be given a username and password from the GTU school in which the student is enrolled. Continuing dialogue and specifically chosen topics for discussion and research will be posted regularly. Also, the class materials and presentations will be available for student access.



## **Content Options:**

In the effort to save on resources, the course will be given to all participants on a flash-drive. On this drive will be all of the class Powerpoint Presentations according to the particular unit. The guiding text, also by unit, is in its own folder. The additional articles and occasional media presentations are also to be found on the flash-drive. The nature of this course demands continual updating. Therefore, new postings, new articles, and new resources will be found on the moodle postings as described on page 7 of this syllabus.

For those requesting printed copies of the unit texts, the articles, and other resources, this can be provided, but this printing comes with a fee. If this is the preference of the student, that can be arranged and a price for each item will be made available.

The cost of the flash-drive is \$6.00 as of September 2014. This is usually \$4.00 less than the average price of these devices.

The required reading has been enhanced beginning with the Fall of 2014. Many of the listed texts are available as e-books for various devices and for your computers. You may find these at a much reduced rate.

The ordering of texts is the responsibility of the student. The order in which the texts are to be read will be discussed, though this is fluid. Most of the text material is integrated into the class presentations. The newer material will appear and will be found on the moodle postings.

If you have any special needs, questions, or requests, you can reach me at [Jrochesdb@gmail.com](mailto:Jrochesdb@gmail.com) or by cell phone at (510) 725-5520. My office number is (510) 204-0800 or (510) 204-0801.

The objective of this course is to generate meaningful discussion by use of the class materials, resources, presentations, and to bring that discussion into the sharing of your own pastoral and ministerial experiences. Therefore, the three theological reflections and or class presentation is an effort to open up this dialogue between study and experience. The final evaluation of your participation depends largely on this input.

For the Fall of 2014, I am called away for a few classes because of my responsibilities as Director of Don Bosco Hall and the Institute of Salesian Studies. I regret this! I would much rather stay on task and continue engagement with the material and with all of you. However, the classes will not be cancelled. With the help of a teacher's aid, Ms. Christine Vincent, with Fr. Jack Gibson, the vice-director of Don Bosco Hall, and with participating student, Mr. Sean Bryan, the material will be covered. As much as possible, I will continue to engage the class online. There will be three classes substituted in September and perhaps three in November.

Thank you for joining us in this important discussion regarding the evangelization of this and other cultures at a critical cross-roads in global history.

Your input richly enhances the issues we will consider in this short semester!