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 for delivery 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 10, 2015:
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)
Examining Contexts & Soul Searching
1. Defining the Western Context for a New Moment: How Did We Get Here?
2. A Period of Diminishment (Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI)

Enlightenment versus Religious Imagination: the work of Maria Harris
1. Albert Nolan and the Signs of the Times
2. Transformation with Religious Imagination

Diminishment and Maintenance
1. Don Bosco versus Modernism
2. Maintenances versus Initiative
3. Western Enlightenment

Naming the North American Context
1. A New Post-9/11 Context: Dermot Lane
2. Theology Between Modernity & Post-Modernity

Dermot Lane and the Theology of a Radically New Context
1. Post-Modernity (Dermot Lane)
2. Subtraction Theories (Charles Taylor)

Modernity versus Post-Modernism with Dermot Lane and Charles Taylor
1. The Malaise of Post-Modernity (Charles Taylor)
2. Examining Charles Taylor (Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ)

Secularity versus God’s Design with Charles Taylor and Paul Michael Gallagher, SJ
1. Passions of Provenance and Beauty
2. Passions of Rarity and Sharing the Journey

Translation versus Information: Young Adult Responses and the Emergent Church
1. The Emergent Church
2. Translating the Gospel
3. Youth and Globalization

**Week beginning Monday, November 9, 2015:**
Passions for Evangelization
1. Passions for Evangelization: Leonard Sweet, Ron Rolheiser, Daniel O’Leary
2. Self-Help versus Self-Emptying

**Week beginning Monday, November 16, 2015:**
Accompaniment and Incarnation
1. Defining Accompaniment
2. Fr. Vecchi and Horizons
3. Three Tasks of Accompaniment
4. Movements Not Born of Institution (Fr. Routhier)

**Week beginning Monday November 23, 2015: (Thanksgiving November 26)**
Mediation and Participation in Spiritual and Secular Understanding
1. The Missiology of Don Bosco
2. Mediation Defined in Various Contexts
3. Mediation in the Three Lives

**Week beginning Monday November 30, 2015:**
The Meaning of Salvation and Does Faith Have a Future with Michael Sweeney, OP and Paul Lakeland, SJ
1. Does Faith Have a Future?
2. Inner Conversion
3. Salvation in Christ: Being Made Safe in Jesus Christ

**Week beginning Monday December 7, 2015:**
Local Church and Diffusion to the Capillaries: New Models
1. Diffusion to the Capillaries
2. Flexible and Immediate Church
3. Cultivating Faith: O’Leary

**Week beginning Monday December 14, 2015 (Semester ends December 18):**
Purification and Threshold Moments
1. Life at the Threshold
2. New Models of Ministry
3. New Pentecost and Vatican II
Required Reading

LANE Dermot, Stepping Stones to Other Religions: A Christian Theology of Inter-Religious Dialogue, Mary Knoll, New York, Orbis Books, 2011


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

Not required reading, but one that offers a general outline of ideas on this subject is:

Additional Reading


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


JOHN PAUL II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, Redemptoris Missio, 7 dec. 1991, in AAS 83 (1992)


LANE Dr. Dermot A., Eucharist as Sacrament of the Eschaton: A Failure of Imagination?, IEC2012 Theology Symposium, St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Ireland (Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin City University).


MOOREHEAD Dr. Robert, “The Fellowship of the Unashamed,” Research indicates that the testament with this title was written in 1980 by a young Christian pastor in Rwanda who was threatened with death unless he denounced his Christianity. The young man was executed but in his room, back in Zimbabwe, this testament was found. The actual author remains anonymous but Dr. Robert Moorehead and other media evangelists have kept this testimony alive.


SWEENEY, OP Michael, “Made Safe, Free, and Unafraid in Christ,” notes form a retreat directed by Fr. Michael Sweeney, OP for the Salesians of Don Bosco in the western province of the United States, Three Rivers, California (2009). The notes are not the work of Fr. Michael Sweeney, OP but the notes taken at his conferences by John Roche, SDB and used by permission.


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
(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 15, 2015
- November 23, 2015
- December 10, 2015

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. 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 2015. This is usually $4.00 less than the average price of these devices.

The required reading has been enhanced beginning with the Fall of 2015. 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 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.

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!