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 8, 2016:
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 12, 2016:
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)

Week beginning Monday, September 19, 2016:
Enlightenment versus Religious Imagination: the work of Maria Harris
1. Albert Nolan and the Signs of the Times
2. Transformation with Religious Imagination

Week beginning Monday, September 26, 2016
Diminishment and Maintenance
1. Don Bosco versus Modernism
2. Maintenances versus Initiative
3. Western Enlightenment

Week beginning Monday, October 3, 2016:
Naming the North American Context
1. A New Post-9/11 Context: Dermot Lane
2. Theology Between Modernity & Post-Modernity

Week beginning Monday, October 10, 2016
Dermot Lane and the Theology of a Radically New Context
1. Post-Modernity (Dermot Lane)
2. Subtraction Theories (Charles Taylor)

Week beginning Monday, October 17, 2016
Modernity versus Post-Modernity with Dermot Lane and Charles Taylor
1. The Malaise of Post-Modernity (Charles Taylor)
2. Examining Charles Taylor (Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ)

Week beginning Monday October 24-27, 2016: Reading Week Break
Week beginning Monday October 27, 2016
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

Week beginning Monday October 31, 2016:
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 7, 2016:
Passions for Evangelization
1. Passions for Evangelization: Leonard Sweet, Ron Rolheiser, Daniel O’Leary
2. Self-Help versus Self-Emptying

Week beginning Monday, November 14, 2016:
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 22, 2016: (Thanksgiving November 24)
Mediation and Participation in Spiritual and Secular Understanding
1. Don Bosco’s Missiology
2. Mediation Defined in Various Contexts
3. Mediation in the Three Lives

Week beginning Monday November 28, 2016:
The Meaning of Salvation and Does Faith Have a Future with Michael Sweeney, OP and Paula 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 5, 2016:
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 12, 2016 (Semester ends December 16):

Purification and Threshold Moments

1. Life at the Threshold
2. New Models of Ministry
3. New Pentecost and Vatican II
Required Reading


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


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


**ISBN - 10:** 0887845207 Retail price: $10.95, Online Price: $18.93
**ISBN - 13:** 9780887845208

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

Additional Reading


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.


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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.


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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.

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Catalogue Description

STSP3081 – Interactive Evangelization
Faculty (DSPT)
3.00 units
Days and Times DSPT or ISS

The real challenge for the Church today is the task of educating and evangelizing in a secular context. That context has been named many things, from Post-Modern, a “Time of Diminishment” (Ron Rolheiser, OMI), Post-Christian, and many other attempts to describe the age in which we live. Though this is not a new problem, the task is not only to unravel the cultural and political context in which Christian ministry and faith is challenged to persist, but to vibrantly present the Gospel to all who live within this age. The work of Catholic Philosopher, Charles Taylor, and the continuing discussions and debates of contemporary Spiritual Authors weave a pathway toward a hopeful vision for Evangelization. This course will study these contributions and wrestle with the challenges of this age to uncover the gift of a Salesian Spirituality of Accompaniment. This school of spirituality is seen a “gift and a necessity”* for the task at hand. (*Sr. Giuseppina Del core, FMA, President La Pontificia facoltà di scienze dell'educazione Auxilium)
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 10, 2016
- November 21, 2016
- December 12, 2016

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.

**Presentation Dates:**
- Week of November 21 (one opportunity)
- Week of November 28 (two opportunities)
- Week of December 5 (two opportunities)
- Week of December 12 (two opportunities)

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.

**In lieu of Moodle Postings:**

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 $12.00 as of June 2016.

The required reading has been enhanced beginning with the Fall of 2016. 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.