

Ministry, Church and Society

GS / CED / PRTH 3023

Online via Moodle

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course materials on the internet: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/mcs.htm>

What we try to do in MCS	Affirm you and your unique mix of spiritual gifts as an important part of a community of faith (that's the "church" part of the title) Introduce you to the religious mosaic of American culture (that's the "society" part) Look at ways you can effectively evangelize and minister in that culture (that's the "ministry" part).
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To do that, we will . . .	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lay an informational base for a life of fruitful ministry and evangelistic relationships and encounters, including giving you abilities to . . .<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Explain the nature of culturesb. Describe and interpret the relationship between culture and individual behaviorc. Explain the operational cultured. Be engaged in personal evangelisme. Be a leader in discipling and assimilating new converts into the church2. Help you identify and cultivate your spiritual gifts3. Give you the ability to describe and explain the importance of the Reformation, the Methodist revival and the significance of P.F. Bresee in the Church of the Nazarene4. Through your involvement in a group presentation in class, develop your ability to deliver a quality presentation using multiple methodologies, media, and materials5. Increase your ability to identify social and congregational factors that influence church growth6. Through the use of case studies, help you synthesize, analyze, and reason logically for discernment, assessment, and problem solving as a believer7. Foster lifelong ministry habits8. Enhance your ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner through a variety of writing assignments
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This six-week course should produce in students the following outcomes:

CN 19 Ability to identify and explain the main characteristics of the nature of the Church

CN 20 Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry

CN 25 Ability to identify and describe the significance of the major figures, themes and events of the Reformation and of the Wesleyan revival

CN 28 Ability to identify P.F. Bresee as a major figure in the formation of the Church of the Nazarene

CP 1 Ability to communicate publicly through oral and written mediums with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning

CP 2 Ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner in the modes of discourse used in ministry

CP 7 Ability to conceive and articulate purpose, mission, vision and to develop strategic plans in a local church

CP 8 Ability to develop team building skills, identify and cultivate spiritual gifts

CP 10 Ability to synthesize, analyze, reason logically for discernment, assessment, and problem solving and live with ambiguity

CP 11 Ability to analyze the validity of arguments and to identify their presuppositions and consequences

CP 20 Ability to be engaged with personal evangelism

- CP 22 Ability to identify social and congregational factors that influence church growth
- CH 2 Ability to discern and make theologically based ethical decisions in the midst of a complex and/or paradoxical context
- CH 10 Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses and areas of needed growth
- CX 4 Ability to explain the operational culture

Textbooks	Kimball, Dan. <i>The Emerging Church</i> Sire, James W. <i>The Universe Next Door</i> (5 th edition)
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“How do I pass this course?”

Each week

1. **Be present in the Moodle forums 5 out of the 7 days every week (8 points per day up to a maximum of 40 per week)**
2. **Do the weekly readings and write a substantive response (at least 250 words) to each of them (due Tuesdays)**
3. **Read the case studies in weeks two through five and write a substantive reflection on each of them.**
4. **“Laboratory” reports (beginning with second week) On the second and succeeding Mondays, submit a report of at least 250 words of your participation the previous week in the worship/evangelistic services and/or ministries of a local congregation. Reflect on how class readings and forum discussions related to what you experienced that week as a congregational participant.**
5. **Submit written responses to at least 8 forum notes posted by other people.**
6. **Write a weekly “end-of-the-week” summary of 500-750 words (due between Friday evening and Saturday night)**

One time events

1. **Academic Integrity Intent statement online (due Monday, Week 1)**
2. **Spiritual Gifts surveys (due Monday, Week 1)**
3. **Syllabus/FAQs page quiz**
4. **Four Interviews**
 - a. **Interview of non-Christian (due Week 1)** on Sire’s seven worldview questions
 - b. **Interviews of two pastors. (due Week 3)** Get a definition of “the church” from two pastors. Also ask them about the “best” and “worst” things about the church. Your 300-600 word report must include the pastors’ names as well as the churches they serve.
 - c. **Interview of lay volunteer (due Week 4).** Interview a local church volunteer worker. Ask about what they do, how they got involved, what brings them the greatest joy and satisfaction . . . Turn in a 1-2 page report. Be sure to identify the person as well as the church in which they serve.
 - d. **Interview of 2 believers (due Week 5).** Interview two adult Christians. Find out how they came to Christ. How did they become aware that they needed Jesus? What finally motivated them to accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ? When they share their experience with someone else, what are the main points they tell? In your 300-600 word report be sure to identify the person as well as the church in which they are involved.
5. **400-word research reports on Martin Luther, John Wesley and Phineas F. Bresee (due Week 6)**
 - a. A note about Wikipedia: It can be a place to start your research, but it should not be relied on. One reason is that a twelve-year-old can write and edit material on Wikipedia. A Wikipedia site that may have had wonderfully accurate information a few minutes ago could just have been altered by someone else. So, don't use Wikipedia as an authoritative source. You may be quoting your sixth-grade cousin!

6. **5-page Future Ministry Dreams paper: How I'd like the Lord to use me** (due Week 6)
 - i. Spell out some hopes and dreams for your future ministry both short-range (2-3 years) and longer-range (5-10 years).
 - ii. Indicate which of your spiritual gifts will be used (based on the results of the assessment from the online surveys).
 - iii. Be specific about the tasks you expect to be involved in.
 - iv. Your paper must include at least two properly documented quotations from the textbooks. The paper must follow the format and style used in SNU's English Composition classes.

7. **Reading at least 30 pages on witnessing / personal evangelism / sharing your faith (due Week 6).** Books may come from the SNU library or the library of a pastor of friend or from a local bookstore.
 - i. The 500-750 page report should include bibliographic data including specific pages read and a summary and/or your reaction to the reading plus at least one documented direct quote from your reading.
 - ii. 60% of the grade will be based on completion of the assignment (min. of 30 pages read with the summary and bibliographic data in proper format). Forty percent will depend on your written summary/reaction.
 - iii. Here are some suggested books. You need not, however, limit yourself to these. Just be sure your reading is in this same subject area (that is, personal, one-on-one evangelism and not just evangelism).

Barna, George. *Evangelism that Works*

Graham, Kevin. *Jesus for a New Generation*

Green, Michael. *One to One: How to Share Your Faith with a Friend*

Kramp, John. *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes: How to Understand Spiritually Lost People and Give them Directions to God*

Little, Paul. *How to Give Away Your Faith.*

Magalit, Isabelo. *How to Share Jesus*

McGrath, Alister. *Explaining Your Faith Without Losing Your Friends*

Nelson, Alan. *Five Minute Ministry*

Peace, Richard. *Witness*

Peterson, Jim. *Living Proof: Sharing the Gospel Naturally*

Pippert, Rebecca. *Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World*

Posterski, Donald. *Why Am I Afraid to Tell You I'm a Christian?*

Raney, Jerry. *How to Go to Work on Your Faith: 10 Tips for Being a Vital Christian on the Job*

Rinker, Rosalind. *Sharing God's Love*

Rinker, Rosalind. *You Can Witness with Confidence*

Robinson, Darrell. *People Sharing Jesus*

Sanders, John. *The Divine Art of Soul Winning*

Sanderson, Leonard and Ron Johnson. *Evangelism For All God's People*

Stenbock, Evelyn. *Soul-Winning Laymen*

Stiles, J. Mack. *Speaking of Jesus: How to Tell Your Friends the Best News They Will Ever Hear*

Strobel, Lee. *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary: How to Reach Friends and Family Who Avoid God and the Church*

Wilkins, Chester. *A Handbook for Personal Soul-Winning*

8. Final exam

Writing Standards

Most courses at SNU contain writing components. That's done on purpose to help you develop the ability to clearly articulate your ideas. I expect students to produce written work that is focused, well developed, organized and relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Submitted assignments falling short of this standard will not be eligible for full credit.

Late work will be penalized up to 50% of the grade. Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism) is never acceptable and will be penalized in accordance with university guidelines.

Grading		
1. Academic Integrity statement	10	Letter Grade Equivalents 93 - 100 A 90 - 92 A- 87 - 89 B+ 83 - 86 B 80 - 82 B- 77 - 79 C+ 73 - 76 C 70 - 72 C- 67 - 69 D+ 60 - 66 D 0 - 59 F Percentages are not rounded up.
2. Spiritual Gifts Assessment	15	
3. Syllabus/FAQs page quiz	10	
4. Weekly reading reflections @ 20 points	120	
5. Case study responses @ 15 points	60	
6. Response posts @ 16 pts possible per week	96	
7. Church “laboratory” reports @ 15 pts	75	
8. Future ministry dreams paper	100	
9. Witnessing Reading	50	
10. Biographies of Luther, Wesley and Bresee	100	
11. Final Exam	100	
12. Attendance (5 out of 7 days) @ 40 pts weekly	200	
13. Interview of non-believer	50	
14. Interview of two pastors	50	
15. Interview of lay volunteer	50	
16. Interview of two believers	50	

Copyright cautions

According to the TEACH Act of 2002, Southern Nazarene University is obligated to advise you that some instructional media may be subject to copyright protection. Videos are being provided under Section 110(2) of the U.S. Copyright Law. As such, you must not share, duplicate, transmit, or store any instructional material beyond the purpose and time frame of this course and/or the educational purpose of Southern Nazarene University. Failing to observe copyright protection is a violation of law.

Disabilities

If you need assistance with a learning or physical disability that may affect your academic progress, I encourage you to contact the Academic Center for Excellence at 491-6694. In addition, specialized services are available for first-generation (neither parent earned a bachelor's degree), low-income, disability, and international students. All traditional, undergraduate students are encouraged to seek assistance from the ACE office for their academic needs.