

PRTH 70970
Special Topics in Practical Theology:
Evangelism in the Contemporary North American Religious Landscape
July 2022

Instructor: Katie Hays

Description of Content: This course explores, theologically and practically, the Christian imperative to evangelize in the context of declining religious (institutional) participation in contemporary North American life. In an increasingly pluralistic society where spirituality has come untethered from communal religious practice, and where the church's authority to regulate orthodoxy ("right belief") is no longer assumed, what does the church say to itself and its neighbors about the value and beauty of discipleship of Jesus? And how, in the noisy onslaught of media saturation, do we say it so that it can be heard?

Class Procedures:

The course will employ instructor's lectures, guest lectures, student presentations on readings, discussions of readings, and one individual project off-site during class hours.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and active participation in all class sessions;
2. Completion of required readings, including reading response papers prior to the first day of class;
3. Timely completion of all readings, reading response papers, and other assignments as described in the syllabus. Note that reading and written work will require a significant time commitment before, during, and after the week of intensive course work. All written work must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Texts:

Arias, Mortimer. *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*, Fortress Press, 1984 (reprinted by Wipf & Stock, 2001; and Academic Renewal Press, 2004). ISBN: 978-0788099038. \$18

Chilcote, Paul W. and Lacey C. Warner, eds. *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring the Missional Practice of the Church*, Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN: 978-0802803917. \$34

Hall, Douglas John. *Waiting for Gospel: An Appeal to the Dispirited Remnants of Protestant "Establishment"*, Cascade Books, 2012. \$23

Hays, Katie. *God Gets Everything God Wants*, Eerdmans, 2021. ISBN 978-0802878564. \$22

Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism After Pluralism: The Ethics of Christian Witness*, Baker Academic, 2018. ISBN: 978-0801099793. \$7

Grading Procedures:

Class participation: 25%

Critical reading responses: 25%

Initial personal reflection and field study listening exercises: 20%

Final paper, 8-10 pages: 30%