

# Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

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Spring Semester 2010

IM 662:  
Personal Evangelism  
(1 unit)

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Office Hours: 9-5 M-F

**NOTE:** Students may also register for this class as part of the 3 unit course, IM670-1 Evangelism and Church Planting. In this case, students are urged to consult the syllabus for IM 670, Church Planting, to become aware of the requirements necessary for completing the church planting portion of this course.

All students are encouraged to register for IM 670, Church Planting, an intensive course taught by Stuart Murray Williams. This course will take place on Monday-Thursday, March 15-18, from 9 am to 5 pm.

## **I. Meeting Times:**

Class sessions for this course will be held on the following Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 AM: January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Apr 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>. These class sessions will be augmented by threaded online discussions.

## **II. Course Description:**

Students are invited into an exploration of the practice of evangelism grounded in biblical, historical, ecclesiastical, and missional perspectives. Opportunities will be provided to experiment with relationally and incarnationally based approaches to evangelism appropriate to the postmodern, post-Christendom context in which we live and serve. Students also will be challenged to cultivate the sort of missional spirituality from which a life of evangelistic engagement can flow naturally and authentically.

## **III. Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to provide evidence that he or she has gained a satisfactory foundation for maturing competency in the following areas:

1. Critically and constructively assessing contemporary evangelistic practices in light of biblical, historical, ecclesiastical, and missional perspectives.
2. Developing an ability to share the good news of the gospel effectively in the context of interpersonal relationships within everyday life.

3. Cultivating a life of spiritual vitality that enables one's witness to the reign of God to be strengthened by growth in Christlikeness and by the Spirit's empowerment.

#### IV. Required Texts:

- Chilcote, Paul W. & Warner, Lacey C., *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. Eerdmans, 2008.
- Choung, James. *True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In*. InterVarsity, 2008.
- Peace, Richard. *Holy Conversation: Talking about God in Everyday Life*. InterVarsity, 2006.
- Renovaré. *Living the Mission: A Spiritual Formation Guide*. HarperOne, 2007.

#### V. Course Outline:

Date(s):	What we'll be focusing upon:	What you need to do to be prepared:
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Introductory Matters	✓ Prior to coming to the first class session, become familiarized with the content of the course syllabus.
February 2 <sup>nd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ Read Choung, pp. 9-38 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #1 due on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	First Hour: Defining the Practice of Evangelism Second Hour: Group discussion of <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters	✓ Read <i>SOE</i> , Part 1 & <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters 1 & 2 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #2 due in class
February 16 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ Read Choung, pp. 39-75 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #3 due on the 16 <sup>th</sup>
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	First Hour: Biblical and Historical Sources Second Hour: Group discussion of <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters	✓ Read <i>SOE</i> , Part 2 & <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters 3 & 4 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #4 due in class
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ Read Choung, pp. 77-115 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #5 due on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ Read Choung, pp. 116-148 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #6 due on the 23 <sup>rd</sup>
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	First Hour: Evangelism & The World of Theology Second Hour: Group discussion of <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters	✓ Read <i>SOE</i> , Part 3 & <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters 5 & 6 ✓ <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #7 due in class

April 6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ ✓	Read Choung, pp. 149-188 <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #8 due on the 6 <sup>th</sup>
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	First Hour: Evangelism and Ecclesial Practices Second Hour: Group discussion of <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters	✓ ✓	Read <i>SOE</i> , Part 4 & <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters 7 & 8 <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #9 due in class
April 20 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ ✓	Read Choung, pp. 191-204 <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #10 due on the 20 <sup>th</sup>
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	First Hour: Evangelism in Diverse Church Settings Second Hour: Group discussion of <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters	✓ ✓	Read <i>SOE</i> , Part 5 & <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters 9 & 10 <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #11 due in class
May 4 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Online Discussion of <i>True Story</i>	✓ ✓	Read Choung, pp. 205-222 <i>Living the Mission</i> journal entry #12 due on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	First Hour: Evangelism in Diverse Cultural Settings Second Hour: Group discussion of <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters	✓	Read <i>SOE</i> , Part 6 & <i>Holy Conversation</i> , chapters 11 & 12

## VI. Assignments:

**PLEASE NOTE:** Attendance at all class sessions is a fundamental expectation of this course. It is assumed that students will come to each session having completed the reading assignments and prepared to participate in group discussion based upon these readings. In addition, students are expected to refrain from surfing the internet or texting on their phones while class is in session. Students also are required to contribute to all posted online discussion threads in a timely and substantive manner.

### 1. *Living the Mission* journal reflections

The student will be expected to submit a reflective journal response to each of the twelve chapters in *Living the Mission*. Each of these journal submissions must be a minimum of one single-spaced page in length and must provide direct responses to at least three of the reflective questions posed in the relevant chapter of *Living the Mission*. These journal entries are due on the dates reflected in section V above.

This assignment can be submitted in either hardcopy or electronic formats. Students who submit their journals as email attachments must entitle their emails and documents according to the following format:

**Email subject line:** IM 662 Journal #\_ (insert the relevant number from 1 to 12);

**Document title:** lastname\_firstnameIM662Journal\_ (insert the relevant number from 1 to 12).

Students also must be certain that their names and the relevant journal number appear on the electronic document itself.

## 2. Participation in the online threaded discussion of *True Story*

During the course of the semester, students will be required to participate in seven online threaded discussions of *True Story* by Choung. For each discussion thread, students will be expected to make a minimum of two substantive posts. These posts must be written in a manner that demonstrates a level of care and critical thought appropriate to graduate theological education. Discussions will extend from Tuesday to Monday on the dates reflected in section V above. During these weeks, students will be required to submit their first post by no later than Thursday at 11:59 pm. Students' second posts must be submitted no later than Monday at 11:59 pm.

## 3. Study of Evangelism Reading Log

This text will serve as the crucial theoretical centerpiece for this course. Thus, thorough engagement with this text is crucial for a student's success in this class. Familiarity with the assigned readings from this book also will enable the student to participate in an informed manner in classroom discussions. Therefore, it is imperative that students stay current with the assigned readings from *Study of Evangelism*. A reading log is due at the start of class each weekend. Students must simply indicate how much of the week's readings they have completed.

## VII. Grading:

Living the Mission Reflective Journal Entries	40%
Online Discussion Participation	30%
Class/Discussion Group Participation	20%
Study of Evangelism Reading Logs	10%

[PLEASE NOTE: All Required activities must be completed. Student cannot pass the course until they are done.]

**Late policy:** All work is due at the time of class on date specified, unless otherwise arranged with the professor. In case of serious illness or emergency, please communicate with the professor ASAP. Grace is available.

MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies>. These policies provide guidance on

academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodations for disability, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, grading templates, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to your professor or consult the Registrar.

Course evaluations are to be completed online and are due one week after the completion of the course. Official grades will not be posted until the student's evaluation of the course is completed.

### **VIII. The Instructor's Commitment:**

Having outlined the basic expectations to which you will be held accountable this semester, I also would like to identify the essential commitments that can be expected of me as your instructor. My commitment to you is that I will strive:

1. To model an attitude of openness and an earnestness toward the purposes of God's reign.
2. To honor your investment of time by always being as prepared as I can be.
3. To assume primary responsibility for cultivating within the classroom an atmosphere of hospitality that will enable all participants to feel free and safe to engage openly in discussion and in discerning God's purposes.
4. To provide constructive and helpful feedback on all written assignments in a timely fashion.