

**Note:**

**COURSE CONTENT MAY BE CHANGED, TERM TO TERM, WITHOUT NOTICE. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED AS A GUIDE FOR COURSE SELECTION AND IS NOT BINDING IN ANY FORM.**

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

PS-4433 Evangelistic Messages, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

A study of effective principles of communication as they relate to the proclamation of the gospel. Explores concepts of audience analysis and its relationship to persuasive preaching. Students will prepare an evangelistic message and deliver it to the class. *Prerequisites: PS-3330 Communication of Biblical Truth or CM-2240 Message Preparation for Women.*

### Course Goals

In this course you will:

- Understand the biblical mandate for evangelistic preaching
- Understand the relationship between evangelistic preaching and the sovereignty of God
- Understand the components of an evangelistic message and the methodology needed to prepare it
- Understand the culture in which they will preach evangelistic messages
- Understand the contexts and opportunities in which they can preach evangelistic messages

### Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Articulate the need for evangelistic preaching to both believers and nonbelievers
2. Explain the theological tension between evangelistic preaching and the sovereignty of God
3. Develop an expository evangelistic message which is faithful both to the text and to the gospel of Jesus Christ and is sensitive to the listeners and their culture
4. Build into an evangelistic message an appropriate invitation for nonbelievers to turn in faith to Jesus Christ
5. Evaluate critically one's own evangelistic messages and those of other preachers
6. Identify the most strategic contexts and opportunities for evangelistic preaching

### Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

#### **Online Articles:**

Keller, Timothy. "The Gospel in All its Forms." (Link available in **Week 1's Lesson Resources** folder)

Leeman, Jonathan. "Should Churches Perform Altar Calls." (Link available in **Week 5's Lesson Resources** folder)

**Audio/Video:**

Mathewson, Steve. Audio talks provided in the resource folders for the weeks in which they are to be reviewed.

Moody, D. L. "Tomorrow May Be Too Late." (Link available in **Week 7's Lesson Resources** folder)

Edwards, David. "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." (Link available in **Week 7's Lesson Resources** folder)

## Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

**READING AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (DISCUSSION BOARDS):** The completion of the course reading is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading prior to class for discussion purposes. You will be required to submit a reading report at the end of each week. In addition to your assigned textbooks, you will also be required to read supplemental articles and/or review audio or video content.

Participation is also expected through a weekly discussion board. You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. In these discussions, you will interact with a small group of 3-5 cohorts. You will be placed in a cohort group at the beginning of the course. Each week, you will discuss either the issues raised in your reading or the work you have done at a particular stage in the sermon preparation process. For each week's Discussion Board question or topic, you will create an initial post by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CST) and will then comment on the posts of others and interact with their comments on your initial post by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm, CST). Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed.

### ASSIGNMENT 1: GOSPEL SUMMARY

Write a one-page (single-spaced) summary of "The Gospel of Jesus Christ." This paper should summarize your understanding of the contents of the gospel as articulated in Scripture. It may help to discuss briefly what the gospel is not, and you may also wish to distinguish the gospel from its effects.

**Due Week 1.**

### ASSIGNMENT 2: SELECTION OF A PREACHING TEXT

You are required to select a preaching text for a sermon you will develop and preach during the course. Then, prepare a one-page explanation as to why you chose this text. Specifically, what is it about this text that makes it a good choice for an evangelistic message? Your preaching text should be a passage (rather than a topic or a single verse of Scripture) which presents the gospel of Jesus Christ. Examples of such passages include: Mark 1:1-14, Luke 15:11-31, Luke 18:9-14, John 1:1-18, Acts 17:16-34, Romans 3:21-26, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, and Revelation 21:1-8. You may choose one (1) of these passages, but you are not limited to them.

Submit a one-page explanation as to why you choose your particular text. **Due Week 2.**

### ASSIGNMENT 3: SERMON EXEGESIS

The first part of your preparation of an evangelistic message from the text you choose will be an exegetical assignment. This assignment must be at least three typed, single-spaced pages. When you cite a commentary or another resource, use in-text citations according to MLA style by putting the author and page number in parentheses as in the following example (Blomberg 295). You will need to cite the source in a Works Cited page at the end of your document. **Due Week 3.**

**ASSIGNMENT 4: SERMON OUTLINE**

Prepare a one-page outline of your sermon. The outline points must be written as complete sentences. At the top of the page, include the sermon title (centered) and sermon text (centered). Then, for your main headings, use ‘Introduction,’ I., II., III.,etc., and ‘Conclusion.’ Use ‘A, B, C, etc.’ for your sub-points. Make sure to label the “big idea.” It should be one of your main outline points. For help with outlining you sermon, consult Richard, 113. **Due Week 4.**

**ASSIGNMENT 5: SERMON MANUSCRIPT**

Prepare a single-spaced manuscript of about three pages. This manuscript should read like an oral transcript of your sermon and should not have outline points. Use the sermon manuscripts Appendix 4 (“A Sample Pre-Evangelistic Sermon”) of Richard (217-227) as a model. **Due Week 6.**

**ASSIGNMENT 6: SERMON DELIVERY**

Preach a 25-30 minute expository evangelistic message on your assigned narrative text. Preferably, deliver this in an evangelistic setting (worship service, youth group meeting, chapel service, campus ministry event, funeral, etc.). Then, record and upload your sermon to Vimeo.com. You are required to deliver this sermon without notes. However, you may do the following: you may write the sermon’s big idea in your Bible; you may underline or circle words or phrases in the text in your Bible; you may write one-word “triggers” in the margin of your Bible. For example, if you plan to use an illustration about the Titanic, you may write “Titanic” in the margin. **Due Week 7.**

**ASSIGNMENT 7: SERMON EVALUATION**

Provide an evaluation of each sermon posted by a member of your cohort group. Your evaluation should answer the assigned questions with 2-3 sentence answers to each question. **Due Week 8.**

**Assessments**

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Reading & Participation/Disc. Boards	20%
Assignment 1: Gospel Summary	10%
Assignment 2: Selection of Text	5%
Assignment 3: Sermon Exegesis	15%
Assignment 4: Sermon Outline	10%
Assignment 5: Sermon Manuscript	15%
Assignment 6: Sermon Delivery	15%
Assignment 7: Sermon Evaluation	10%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

### Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu). If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>.

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### Course Bibliography

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- Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.
- Hunter, James Davidson. *To Change the World: the irony, tragedy, and possibility of Christianity in the late modern world*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
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- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Evangelistic Preaching that Connects*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
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- Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: the development and delivery of expository messages*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Sweeting, George. "Evangelism and Preaching." *The Moody Handbook of Preaching*. John Koessler, Ed. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008.