



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BMIN 5900, EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, & CHURCH PLANTING, Summer 2024,
Dr. Carl Williamson

Course description

This course explores the articulation and expansion of the gospel through faith sharing, training disciple makers, and forming new churches. The course begins with a theological foundation of the gospel and then explores strategies for articulating the gospel in evangelism, developing a discipleship culture within churches, and exploring models of church planting. Students will practice having spiritual conversations, explore faithful discipleship practices and habits, and study case studies of new churches and established churches on mission.

The course contributes to the following degree outcomes:

- Demonstrate commitment to personal spiritual formation (MACM and M.Div.)
- Demonstrate skills associated with leadership in ministry specialization. (MACM)
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate the scriptures and theological tradition with diverse contemporary cultural contexts. (MACM and M.Div.)
- Demonstrate the skills associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities. (M.Div.)

Additional course objectives

- Cultivate competency in engaging spiritual conversations and effectively articulating the gospel.
- Develop leadership skills and abilities in formulating and fostering a discipleship culture within a church or ministry.
- Reflect theologically on the process of church planting by exploring models.
- Deepen one's passion and burden for the spreading of the gospel through individual interactions, collective practices, and larger movements.

Required textbooks

Bobby Harrington and Carl and Alicia Williamson, *Trust & Follow Jesus: Conversations that fuel Disciple Making* (Renew, 2023).

Brandon Guindon, *Intentional: Living Out The Eight Principles of a Disciple* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2023).

David M. Gustafson, *Gospel Witness Through The Ages: a history of Evangelism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022).

Jim Davis and Michael Graham with Ryan P. Burge, *The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why are they going, and What will it take to bring them back?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2023).

Matthew W. Bates, *Why the Gospel? Living the Good News of King Jesus with Purpose*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2023).

J. D. Payne, *Apostolic Church Planting: Birthing New Churches for New Believers*, (IVP Press, 2015)

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to ensure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

A place to submit assignments, and grades are available on Canvas. To access the Canvas course page, go to <http://elearning.harding.edu>.

Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: cawilliamson@harding.edu

Cell Phone Number: 615-856-3315

Office: McInteer Building 141

Requirements and grading

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (including Zooms) (10%)
2. Spiritual Conversations Journal (15%)
3. Write & Publish Article (10%)
4. Class PowerPoint/Presentation (20%)
5. Ministry Project and Paper (20%)
6. Exam (25%)

Grading scale: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-75 (C), 74-70 (D), 69 and below (F)

Course format

Students should complete all readings before the class on HST campus and be prepared to lead or engage in focused conversation. The class time on campus will be filled with lecture, discussion, various presentations, engagement with course material, and an exam. Additional time will be spent besides the face-to-face session with online class discussion through Zoom and journal posting.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day, no exceptions.

Academic integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

Credit hour workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Students with disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research), or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST website (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Pre-Class Schedule and Assignments

1. ***Introductory Zoom Session – May 13 @ 1:00 pm CST – 2:30 pm CST.*** Everyone is required to attend. The professor will send out an invite. This will be a chance to introduce one another and review the syllabus and course expectations.
2. ***Spiritual Conversations Journal*** – Each student is to keep a spiritual conversations journal throughout the duration of the course. This will consist of the student posting a brief 500 word entry each week (due on Friday) that details the various spiritual conversations that the student has had during the week. These conversations could be with family members, church members, co-workers, neighbors, or strangers. The journal is a way to reflect on the conversations one’s has had and to build competency in having effective spiritual conversations.
 - a. Journal entries will be submitted on canvas and below is a list of the weeks that an entry is due. For the total course, there should be nine entries.
 - i. May 13-17
 - ii. May 20-24
 - iii. May 27-May 31
 - iv. June 3-June 7
 - v. June 17-June 21
 - vi. June 24-June 28
 - vii. July 1-July 5
 - viii. July 8-July 12
 - ix. July 15-July 19

3. **Write & Publish Article** – Each student is required to identify a practical “How To” topic in Evangelism, Disciple Making, or Church Planting. Students are expected to write an article with the expressed purpose of publishing. An outline of the topic with Biblical foundations, Steps, and any Resources that will be referenced must be sent to the professor in advance for approval. The goal of this project is to bless God’s church with resources on how to do evangelism, disciple making or church planting. The writing should be simple and clear.
 - a. Identify the audience (Teens, Young Adults, Singles, Marrieds, Lay Leaders, etc.)
 - b. Identify the main idea and be able to articulate that idea clearly for that audience.
 - c. Be sure to footnote resources utilized.
 - d. This writing should be 1000-1500 words.
 - e. Students will be required to have at least 2 peers review their writing for grammatical errors, theological review, and/or methodological suggestions.
 - f. Students will be required to have a completed draft by the June 27th Zoom Meeting for Peer Reviews.
4. **Class PowerPoint/Presentation** – Each student is required to create a PowerPoint presentation on the book by David M. Gustafson, *Gospel Witness Through The Ages: a history of Evangelism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022).
 - a. The presentation should highlight the main stories/events described in the chapters.
 - b. It should include pictures, graphs, and appropriate quotes.
 - c. Students should limit the number of words on pages to a maximum of 30.
 - d. It should include appropriate notes in the notes section on PowerPoint so that the professor and fellow students clearly know how to teach the content of that slide.
 - e. Students are required to work together by sharing their PowerPoint slides with their classmates in order that the whole class will have a usable PowerPoint for teaching the History of Evangelism to their local church community.
 - f. Students should be ready to present sections of their presentation at the appropriate class time.

Class schedule

The class will meet Monday-Friday (June 10-14) from 8:00am-5:00pm with breaks throughout. Each morning will begin with prayer and dwelling in the Word.

June 10

- (1) The centrality of the gospel (Bates)
- (2) History of Evangelism (Gustafson)

June 11

- (1) History of Evangelism (Gustafson)
- (2) The Great Dechurching (Davis, Graham, Burge)

June 12

- (1) Intentional Disciple Making (Guindon, Harrington, Williamson)
- (2) Creating a Disciple Making culture & Network

June 13

- (1) Why Church Planting matters? (Payne)
- (2) Models of Church Planting

June 14

1. Church Planting Nuts & Bolts
2. Exam

After Class Assignments

1. **Brief Zoom Session – June 27 @ 1:00pm CST-2:30pm CST.** Every student is required to attend. The professor will send out an invite. This is a chance to check-in and receive an update on students' projects and offer mutual encouragement.
2. **Ministry Project – Due July 26** – Each student is to engage in a ministry application project in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, or church planting. The project should include 10 hours of engagement in this project and can be done through your local church or ministry context.
 - a. The goal of this project is to apply the material of the class by doing some missional experimentation in the areas of evangelism and discipleship or to do some missional exploration or discernment for the purposes of church planting.
 - b. Potential examples of projects:
 - i. Engage an evangelistic prayer emphasis within your church.
 - ii. Lead an evangelistic small group for several weeks, analyzing its effectiveness.
 - iii. Do prayer walking among a neighborhood, engaging its residents for spiritual conversations.
 - iv. Analyze and increase the evangelistic effectiveness of certain outreach activities at your church.
 - v. Engage in a series of relational Disciple Making studies with new Christians.
 - vi. Evaluate the Disciple Making culture at your congregation and make steps toward shifting it.
 - vii. Lead a Disciple Making cohort that is geared toward pursuing participation in the mission of God.
 - viii. Work with a new church plant in supporting key activities and offer reflection about the new church.
 - ix. Participate in a practice of discernment or exploration of a neighborhood or area as a possible location for church planting.
 - c. Each student will write a **8 page** reflection paper that details the project and its results. The paper will include a brief contextual analysis, theological foundation, project description, and reflections on what is learned.
 - d. A brief prospectus (2 paragraphs) is due by the end of intensive week on what the project must entail and must be approved by the professor.

Bibliography

I. Evangelism

- Abraham, William. *The Logic of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Beougher, Timothy. *Invitation to Evangelism: Sharing the Gospel with Conviction and Compassion*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2021.
- Bowen, John P. *Evangelism for "Normal" People*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.
- Chilcote, Paul W. and Lacey C. Warner, ed., *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Conner, Benjamin T. *Practicing Witness: A Missional Vision of Christian Practices*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Gould, Paul M. *Cultural Apologetics: Renewing the Christian Voice, Conscience, and Imagination in a Disenchanted World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2019.
- Hildreth, D. Scott and Steven McKinion. *Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2020.
- Hybels, Bill. *Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.
- Hybels, Bill and Mark Mittelberg. *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Johnston, Thomas P. *A History of Evangelism in North America*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2021.
- Mason, Eric. *Urban Apologetics: Restoring Black Dignity with the Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021.
- Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2017.
- Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Pathak, Jay and Dave Runyon. *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.
- Stone, Bryan P. *Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2007.
- Seversen, Beth. *Not Done Yet: Reaching and Keeping Unchurched Emerging Adults*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.
- Shultz, James Harrison and David Rogers, *The Practical Art of Spiritual Conversation: Learning the Whens of Evangelism and the Hows of Discipleship*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2021.

II. Discipleship

- Anderson, Neil. *Becoming a Disciple Making Church*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2016.
- Boren, Scott. *Missional Small Groups: Becoming a Community That Makes a Difference in the World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2010.
- Bowen, John P. *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission, and Everything Else*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2021.

- Breen, Mike. *Building a Discipling Culture*. Pawleys Island, SC: 3DM International, 2017.
- Chester, Tim and Steve Timmis. *Everyday Church: Gospel Communities on Mission*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.
- Hirsch, Alan and Debra Hirsch. *Untamed: Reactivating a Missional form of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
- Moon, Gary. *Apprenticeship with Jesus: Learning to Live Like the Master*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.
- Ortiz, Juan Carlos. *Disciple*. Carol Stream, IL: Creation House, 1975.
- Putnam, Jim. *Discipleship: Five Steps that Help Your Church to Make Disciples who Make Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Scazzero, Pete. *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from Shallow Christianity to Deep Transformation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021.
- Smith, Christopher and John Pattison. *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- Villodas, Rich. *The Deeply Formed Life*. Colorado Spring: Waterbrook, 2020.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. New York: Harper Collins, 1988.
- Zscheile, Dwight J., ed. *Cultivating Sent Communities: Missional Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

III. Church Planting

- Berquist, Linda and Michael Crane. *City Shaped Churches: Planting Churches in a Global Era*. Skyforest, CA: Urban Loft Publishers, 2018.
- Branson, Mark and Nicholas Warnes. *Starting Missional Churches: Life with God in the Neighborhood*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- Dreier, Mary Sue., ed. *Created and Led by the Spirit: Planting Missional Congregations*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013.
- Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. WIGTake Resources, 2004.
- Jones, Tom, ed. *Church Planting From the Ground Up*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Sparks, Paul, Tim Soerens, and Dwight J. Friesen. *The New Parish: How Neighborhood Churches are Transforming Mission, Discipleship, and Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2014.
- Sanders, Brian. *The Underground Church: A Living Example of the Church in its most Potent Form*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- Searcy, Nelson and Kerrick Thomas. *Launch: Starting a New Church from Scratch*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017.
- Stetzger, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006.
- Woodward, JR and Dan White, Jr. *The Church as Movement: Starting and Sustaining Missional-Incarnational Communities*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2016.

Use of technology

Canvas Online Learning System

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system or email your professor directly at cawilliamson@harding.edu.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.

HST Live Interactive Video Education (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

The HST LIVE/Zoom Meeting ID for this course can be found on Canvas.

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE orientation session. For more information on LIVE orientation, contact bscurtis@harding.edu.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

LIVE Etiquette:

- HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.
- “Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted only in extreme cases such as illness or family emergency (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all scheduled

sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.

- Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (for example, a chair at a desk in your office). Create a distraction free environment. It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.
- Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. If you must go to the restroom & mute your audio/video, Then return to your screen, un-mute, and resume the class.
- Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (for example, no family noise, TV, etc.).
- Failure to observe these and related etiquette matters will result in grade reductions at the professor's sole discretion.