

**Bible and Theology Department**  
"Shaping Servant-Leaders"

— Syllabus —

<p><b>COURSE NUMBER and TITLE:</b> THE 639 THEOLOGY OF COMPASSION  <b>CREDIT HOURS:</b> 3  <b>SEMESTER:</b> FALL 2019  <b>COURSE DAY/TIME:</b> Tuesday/6:00-8:45PM  <b>LOCATION:</b> ROOM #AGTS114</p>	<p><b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Dr. Jeff Nelson  <b>PHONE:</b> (417) 350-2338 (mobile)  <b>OFFICE:</b> AGTS Room 219  <b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:nelsonj@evangel.edu">nelsonj@evangel.edu</a>  <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> Tuesday 1-5pm and by appointment</p>
<p><b>REQUIRED TEXT:</b>  <i>Title of Text (with ISBN#)</i>            McKnight, Scot. <i>Kingdom Conspiracy: Returning to the Radical Mission of the Local Church.</i> Brazos Press. 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8010-9785-0            Nouwen, Henri, et al. <i>Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life.</i> New York: Image; repr. 2005. ISBN: 0-385-51752-1            Other articles by the instructor will be provided via Course Commons as the class progresses.</p> <p><b>REQUIRED CLASS SUPPLIES:</b>            Electronic devices will be used on a regular basis in this class. Please bring an electronic device on which you can view professional and news articles and participate in group activities to class each day.</p>	

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION:**

The purpose of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to train men and women to fulfill the mission of the Church as taught in Scripture—*Shaping servant leaders with knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.*

**EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION:**

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

**THEOLOGY AND GLOBAL CHURCH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT:**

The mission of AGTS is to shape servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the rich biblical foundations that inform the way in which compassion functions as an essential element of Christian faith. Students will learn how compassion relates to what it means to be the people of God according to both the Old and New Testaments. A biblical approach to compassion will then be set within a clear Pentecostal framework that examines the role of the Spirit in relation to both signs and wonders and ethical formation.

## **COURSE PURPOSE:**

This course will prepare students to live out their faith in an integrated way and understand compassion from a biblical/theological perspective to be an essential part of their calling in whatever vocation they pursue.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

This is an online course. Weekly modules found in COURSE COMMONS include course resources and specifications.

- All assignments are due on the date and time specified on the Course Outline and the assignment drop boxes in COURSE COMMONS (not via email).
- All students are expected to communicate with the instructor any concerns, technical difficulties, and/or questions they may have via email, phone call, or face-to-face appointment.
- Students are expected to have daily access to:
  - a computer
  - the Internet
  - Evangel email.
- All assignments need to be submitted Microsoft Office format.
  - MS Word file extension: .docx or .doc format
  - MS PowerPoint 2013, 2016 or Show, file extension: .pptx or .ppsx
  - The latest version of Office is available for your personal machine. It can be downloaded without charge by following the instructions at:  
<https://help.evangel.edu/hc/en-us/articles/201759875-How-Do-I-Get-Microsoft-Office-for-free->
- All formal papers (unless otherwise specified by the instructor) are to be formatted according to AGTS's T8-SBL2 Academic Style.<sup>1</sup>

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Class attendance is extremely important to your success as a student. Building a habit of good attendance will translate into your professional responsibilities in your future career and make you a more valuable member of a professional team. There are no excused absences, but should you be absent from class, you will be responsible for collecting information you miss. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. You are expected to be present and on time. Three tardies will count as one absence, and failure to complete assignments associated with our online class sessions will count as being absent from class. If you are absent two consecutive sessions without contacting me, first I'll really miss you, and

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<sup>1</sup> This is the official, agreed-upon set of options of AGTS's faculty based on the 8<sup>th</sup> ed. of Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, and superseded by any differences from T8 in the *Society for Biblical Literature Guide for Contributors*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Full details are found in COURSE COMMONS, the AGTS website, and The Write Place. [Add hyperlinks when available.]

second, I'll be contacting you to come in and meet with me. **Upon your sixth absence, your enrollment will be withdrawn from the course.**

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES<sup>2</sup>:**

As an elective class for the AGTS programs, it supports but does not assess the following:

<b>CLO: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:</b>	<b>PLO</b>	<b>EU20</b>	<b>FWE</b>
1. Recognize the general contours of contemporary debates regarding compassion as it relates to the church's mission. (Exam)		E3,	1
2. Identify how compassion relates to being the people of God in both the Old and New Testament and apply these lessons to one's own spiritual journey. (Personal testimony and class presentation)		C3, C4, G5	3, 4, 5, 6
3. Differentiate the key elements in biblical compassion, including mercy, justice and righteousness, love, truth-telling, peace/peacemaking, and how they relate to one another. (Exam).		C3, C4	3, 4, 5, 6
4. Analyze specific challenges facing the church in light of Christian compassion. (Book review).		G4, G5	6

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

All assignments have specific due dates that are listed on the attached course outline. Assignment instructions can also be found in weekly folders on COURSE COMMONS. **Unless otherwise directed by the instructor, all assignments are submitted to drop boxes on COURSE COMMONS. No assignments will be accepted via email.**

## **Master of Arts student requirements**

1. Write a 3-5-page response paper on the Compassion Symposium (10%). List 3 sessions that you attended. A. Select one of the sessions and describe the way in which the session related to your biblical theology of compassion. B. Did the session consider a theological viewpoint or was the theological perspective assumed and if so, what was it? C. What did you learn from the presentation?
2. Group Assignment on Christian Humanitarian Ministry (25%): With your group do a thorough study of the Bible researching these five questions.
  - a. Did the church ever use its collective funds (tithes and/or offerings presented to God via church leadership) to give humanitarian aid to believers?
  - b. Did the church ever use its collective funds to give humanitarian aid to non-believers?
  - c. Did the church or individual Christians ever use miracles signs or wonders to draw people to God and then preach to them?
  - d. Did the church ever use its collective funds as an evangelistic lure (something to attract people to be curious and listen) to draw people to God?

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<sup>2</sup> All AGTS Program Learning Outcomes, EU 20, and Faith, Work, and Economics outcomes are found on the website: <https://agts.edu/current-students/academic-policies/>.

- e. Did Biblical characters ever use their personal funds (those belonging to the individual, not given to the church) to give humanitarian aid to non-believers?
5. Based on your biblical research from the questions above provide a model for Christian humanitarian ministry. Prepare a 10-to-15-minute presentation (using PowerPoint or other media) on your findings for class. If group members have differing conclusions, they can be presented as “major” and “differing” opinions of the group and both should be argued. Answer the following questions:
  - a. In what ways will the individual believer be encouraged to do Christian humanitarian ministry?
  - b. In what ways will the church develop Christian humanitarian ministry?
  - c. In what ways will the church seek to attract and draw people to God?
  - d. What was the impact of this type of model on the non-believing people near the churches in the New Testament? And what do you predict might be the reaction of people near this type of church in your setting?
3. Produce a Bible study, sermon, Sunday school lesson, or essay on one aspect of Christian compassion and why it is important (10%). This assignment should primarily focus on a single passage of Scripture but may refer to other passage to support the main idea or key point.
4. Present a 10-minute class presentation on a particular topic in the Theology of Compassion and your personal testimony (5%). Topics will be assigned/selected in the first week(s) of class. Each student will share a personal testimony of coming to Christ, educational aspects, and how Christian compassion has been a part of life (3 minutes). Then share research on the topic assigned. Media should be incorporated, and sources identified.
5. A mid-term (20%) and final exam (30%) will be given to determine mastery of course content.

**ASSESSMENT:**

*All assignments will be assessed using rubrics. Rubrics will be attached to the drop boxes on COURSE COMMONS for you to view prior to submitting your assignments. Points for each of the assignment categories and the grading scale for the course are shown below.*

**GRADING SCALE:** COURSE COMMONS DEFAULT GRADING SCALE PROVIDED BELOW

A	94 to 100%	C	74 to < 77%
A-	90 to < 94%	C-	70 to < 74%
B+	87 to < 90%	D+	67 to < 70%
B	84 to < 87%	D	64 to < 67%
B-	80 to < 84%	D-	61 to < 64%
C+	77 to < 80%	F	0 to < 61%

**GRADING POLICY:** Grades are earned, and each assignment or quiz/exam is weighted according to the percentage points listed in Course Commons Assignments. Late assignments will be subject to loss of points. No assignment will be accepted after final exam. The policies of Evangel University as described in the student handbook or other relevant documents will be followed.

The grading percentages can be found above in the respective assignments.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

*This is a tentative course outline. Course outline may be changed at the discretion of the course instructor. Notice of changes will be made in class and/or through COURSE COMMONS announcements.*

Lessons	Topics	Assigned Reading
1	What does the Bible say about Compassion? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is biblical theology</li> <li>• How does it apply to the Theology of Compassion?</li> </ul>	
2	Why is compassion controversial? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief History of Christian Compassion</li> <li>• Compassion in fundamentalist-modernist controversy</li> <li>• The hermeneutical challenges to biblical compassion</li> </ul>	McKnight chaps. 1-2
3	Compassion and the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does the Bible say about compassion and the church?</li> <li>• Does it differ from compassion and the individual believer?</li> </ul>	Bible: Through your group assignment you will research relevant passages from the Bible.
4	Compassion and Discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion as a process</li> <li>• Three-dimensional worship (upward, inward, outward)</li> <li>• Radical discipleship in Matthew's Gospel</li> <li>• Worship and transformation</li> </ul>	Nouwen Intro and chap. 1
5	Compassion, Sin, and Evangelism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compassion and the fall</li> <li>• Sin and its effects</li> <li>• The redemptive compassion of God</li> <li>• Suffering as both a physical and spiritual problem</li> <li>• The relationship between compassion and evangelism</li> </ul>	McKnight 3; Nouwen chaps. 2-3
6	Compassion and Faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fellowship/community</li> <li>• Compassion and difference</li> <li>• Compassion as an indicator of spiritual maturity</li> <li>• Compassion as evidence of wisdom</li> </ul>	McKnight chaps. 4-5; Nouwen chaps. 4-5
7	Compassion, Miracles, and the Kingdom of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining the KoG</li> <li>• The gospel of the kingdom</li> <li>• Signs of the kingdom</li> <li>• Miracles and the kingdom</li> <li>• The church and the kingdom</li> <li>• The priority of community</li> <li>• The Spirit-formed community</li> </ul>	McKnight chap. 6-7; Nouwen chap. 6

8	<p>Justice and Righteousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is justice?</li> <li>• What is righteousness?</li> <li>• Justice and righteousness as Hebrew parallelism</li> <li>• Practicing justice and righteousness</li> <li>• Practicing justice and righteousness: Personal, practical and priestly</li> <li>• Justice, righteousness, and the local church</li> </ul>	McKnight chaps. 8-10; Nouwen chap. 7
9	<p>Love and Truth telling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is love</li> <li>• Truth-centered love</li> <li>• God's covenantal love</li> <li>• Christ-centered love</li> <li>• Love is an action word</li> <li>• Love starts at home</li> </ul>	McKnight chaps. 11-12; Nouwen chap. 8; Nelson- Motivation for Missions
10	<p>Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The God of peace</li> <li>• Peace and the people of God</li> <li>• Judgment and peace</li> <li>• Peace and the Spirit</li> <li>• Peace, pacifism, and military service</li> </ul>	Nouwen chap. 9

## THEOLOGY OF COMPASSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- . 2011. *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books.
- Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove: IVP 2006.

Yoder, John Howard. 1994. *The Politics of Jesus*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Dr. Jeffery Nelson, Aug. 1, 2019.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

As people of Christ, members of the broader academic community, and future professionals, it is incumbent upon every member of the Evangel community to employ and encourage integrity in all our academic and professional pursuits. Any and every instance of academic dishonesty compromises the mission of Evangel University and violates the standards we hold as people of Christ and practitioners within our professional fields. Students are expected to understand and avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, which includes falsification, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

As members of the Evangel community, students share the responsibility to deter and report academic dishonesty. Should a student become aware of a violation of academic integrity, he or she is encouraged to report the incident to a faculty member or department chairperson.

It is the responsibility of the faculty to address any and all acts of academic dishonesty. Sanctions for violations of academic dishonesty can include but are not limited to a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension from school, or expulsion from the university. Evangel's policy on academic integrity, as published in the Student Handbook, appears in Section VIII. University Policies: Academic Integrity.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM:**

- It is expected that electronic devices will be used during class to support the students' learning. Any use of technology that substantially degrades the learning environment, promotes dishonesty or illegal activities is prohibited.
- Cell phones should only be used for academic purposes during class. It is not permissible to answer cell phones or engage in text messaging while class is in session. Should an emergency situation arise that requires you to use your cell phone, please make the professor aware of the circumstances.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:**

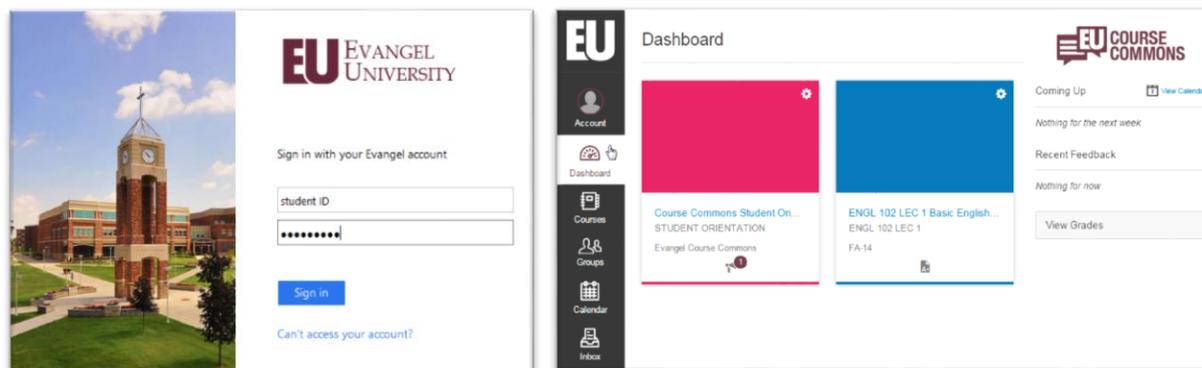
Evangel University is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated by Evangel University to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be

arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

— COURSE COMMONS Information —

This course will use *COURSE COMMONS*, Evangel's learning management system. There are links to *COURSE COMMONS* in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for *COURSE COMMONS* is <https://courses.evangel.com/>.

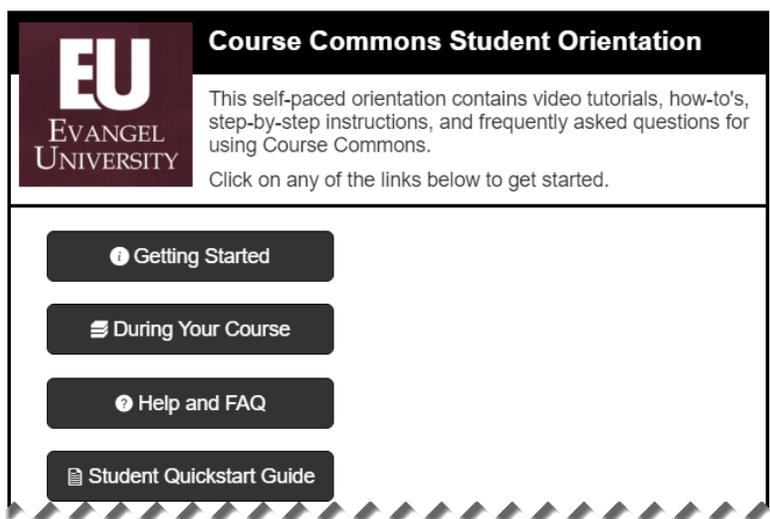


**Use your  
Evangel**

**username and password to login.**

### **COURSE COMMONS STUDENT ORIENTATION**

All Evangel students have access to the [Course Commons Student Orientation](#). If you are new to *COURSE COMMONS* you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.



### **ACCESSING THE COURSE IN COURSE COMMONS**

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

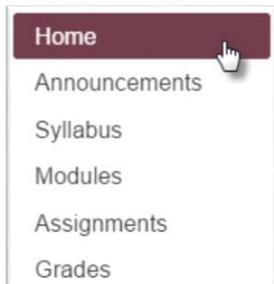
To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: [How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

Students will have access to this course in *COURSE COMMONS* seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through *COURSE COMMONS*. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

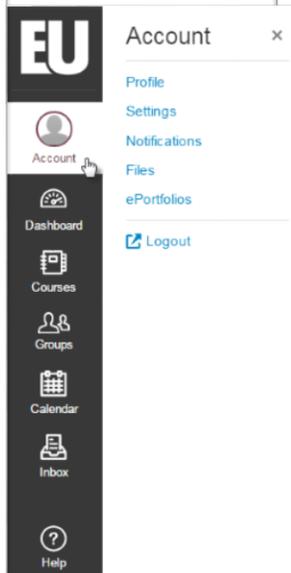
## **ACCESSING COURSE CONTENT IN COURSE COMMONS**

The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.



You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again.



All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the Course Navigation menu. Students can adjust their personal settings in *COURSE COMMONS*. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the **Profile** page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout *COURSE COMMONS*.

The **Settings** link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The **Notifications** link allows you to customize *what* notifications you receive from *COURSE COMMONS* and *how* and *when* you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the *COURSE COMMONS* Student Orientation: [How to Update your Profile and Settings](#) and [How to Update Your Notifications Preferences](#).

## **ACCESSING GRADES IN COURSE COMMONS**

All course grades will be recorded and shown through *COURSE COMMONS*. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course.

For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the *COURSE COMMONS* Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

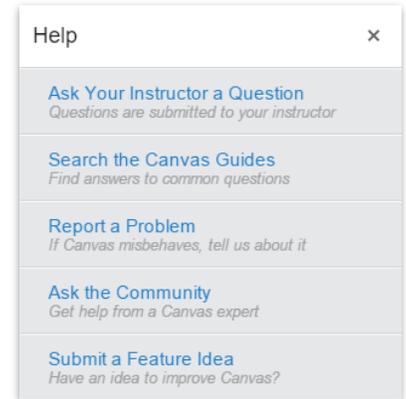
## **HOW TO GET HELP WITH COURSE COMMONS**

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Help menu from any page in *COURSE COMMONS*.

Click on the Help icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the *COURSE COMMONS* is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Help menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem.

You can browse and search the Help Guides using the following link: <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/>.



## **COURSE COMMONS TROUBLESHOOTING**

***Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course?*** Contact your professor.

***Are you having technical problems with COURSE COMMONS?*** Click the Help icon, click "Report a Problem" and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.

***Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)?*** Contact the IT Helpdesk at 417-865-2815 ext. 8368 (phone), [helpdesk@evangel.edu](mailto:helpdesk@evangel.edu)