

Bible and Theology Department
"Shaping Servant-Leaders"

— Syllabus —

<p>COURSE NUMBER and TITLE: PTH 640: Contemporary Religious Issues in America and the Future of Mission.</p> <p>CREDIT HOURS: 3</p> <p>SEMESTER: SPRING 2020</p> <p>COURSE DAY/TIME: January 8-10 (Intensive)</p> <p>LOCATION: AGTS 226</p>	<p>INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Charles E. Self, Ph.D.</p> <p>PHONE: 408-307-1339 (cell)</p> <p>OFFICE: AGTS 233 (Adjunct Office)</p> <p>EMAIL: selfch@evangel.edu</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS: By appointment</p>
<p>REQUIRED TEXTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaves, Mark, <i>American Religion: Contemporary Trends - Second Edition</i> Princeton University Press, 2017. 978-0691177564 \$18.95 • Guinness, Os, <i>Last Call for Liberty: How America's Genius for Freedom Has Become Its Greatest Threat</i> IVP Books 2018. 978-0830845590 336 pages \$15.01 • Nelson, Tom, <i>The Economics of Neighborly Love</i>. IVP Books, 2018. 978-0830843923 222 pages \$14.15 • Self, Charlie <i>Flourishing Churches and Communities</i>. Christian's Libray Press, 2013. 978-1938948169 178 pages \$10.00 • Stanton, Glenn T., <i>The Myth of the Dying Church: How Christianity Is Actually Thriving in America and the World</i> Worthy Books 2019. 978-1683973058 \$19.00 • Tisby, Jemar, <i>The Color of Compromise</i> Grand Rapids: Zondervan 2019. 978-0310597261 256 pages \$15.29 • The Instructor will post articles and videos during the semester. <p>REQUIRED CLASS SUPPLIES: Students will have access to computers and the internet and submit all assignments through Course Commons. Graduate level anaysis, reflection, and writing ability are assumed, including accessing online documents and links for research.</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.

DEPARTMENT MISSION:

Shaping Servant Leaders

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This elective course is designed to offer insights into current trends in American religion, especially the Christian traditions. It offers the historical context, biblical assessments, and empirical evaluation. These insights will shape missional responses and offer insights for the local church and her ministries. The topics explored include the “hot button” cultural and social issues, the orthodoxy and orthopraxy responses of Christian leadership, and the importance of integrating faith, work and economic wisdom into the discipleship and missiology of the church.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites.

COURSE PURPOSE:

This course prepares present and future leaders with the biblical, historical, and empirical wisdom to lead congregations and movements with wisdom, navigating the treacherous waters of a deeply divided culture. While the focus is on American trends, the principles are universal and applicable in all contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This is a hybrid course. Student will meet at the beginning of the semester and then complete the work over the rest of the semester. In class lectures and conversations will establish the guidelines for assessing the reading material and other resources.

- **In-class participation** is vital as a foundation for the semester.
- **Reading accountability** for the first part of Guinness.
- **12 weekly journal reflections** will integrate the class readings, classroom discussion, supplemental resources and outside reading and reflection. These will be 2-3 pages.
- **Three reading review papers**, reflecting careful analysis, will be due on the dates specified below. Each review will look at two class textbooks and in 5-6 pages the student will offer three key insights from each author and at least two points of leadership application arising from the works.
- **There will be a final project of 10-12 pages.** This will be a personal leadership plan for equipping believers. This work can be a curriculum, a series of messages, a project...but it must reflect class material, careful thinking and the contexts in which the leader serves others.
- 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, and 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.¹

ATTENDANCE:

Participation in the 2.5 days of the intensive is vital for success. Any exceptions must be cleared with the instructor.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

1. Leaders will understand and be able to articulate in speaking and writing the historical context for many contemporary religious and social challenges in the USA.
2. Leaders will learn principles of research and assessment that will help them accurately understand critical current issues and biblically grounded responses. Particular attention will be given to the grand Narrative of Scripture and the relationship of eschatology with ethics.
3. Leaders will learn principles for effectively discipling their congregations, organizations, and communities. This includes a transforming vision of outcome-based discipleship.
4. Leaders will learn the principles of biblical response to the very divisive cultural issues, including class, gender, race, political ideology, cultural and ethnic identity, and the inherent tensions of kingdom and national identity and participation.
5. Leaders will discover principles and practices for integrating faith, work and economic wisdom into the fabric of their communities.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):²

This class supports but does not assess the Program Learning Outcomes.

EU 20 Outcomes:

This class supports but does not assess the EU20 Outcomes

Faith, Work, and Economics Outcomes (FWE):³

This class supports but does not assess the FWE Outcomes.

¹ This is the official, agreed-upon set of options of AGTS's faculty based on the 8th 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*, 2nd ed. Full details are found in COURSE COMMONS, the AGTS website, and The Write Place. [Add hyperlinks when available.]

² All AGTS Program Learning Outcomes are found on the website: [place live hyperlink here](#).

³ All Faith, Work, and Economic Outcomes are found on the website: [place live hyperlink here](#).

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments have specific due dates that are listed on the attached course outline. Assignment instructions can also be found in modules 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.**

- In-class participation.
- Reading accountability for January 17.
- There will be twelve (12) weekly journal reflections (see above)
- There will be three (3) reading review papers (see above for description), due on the dates given below.
- There will be a final project due on the date given below.

ASSESSMENT: 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 < 89%	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: Students will be graded on a percentage basis, with the different assignments given different point values.

In-class participation: 10 Points

Reading accountability: 10 Points

Journal reflections: 12 at 20 points each = 240 points

Reading Reviews: 3 at 50 points each = 150 points

Final Project = 100 points

Total: 510 points

COURSE OUTLINE:

This is a tentative course outline. The 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.

January 8-10: In-class intensive

Here is an outline for our conversations in class:

- Why a Pentecostal ethos matters as we assess and respond to issues.
- The Grand Narrative of Scripture and discovering an integrated life.
- What are the serious cultural issues dividing both church and society? What are some informed biblical, historical, and theological insight and resources for wise responses?
- Two key issues at the heart of our conflicts: anthropology and epistemology.
- Back to the future: understanding foundations and fractures, principles and subversions of America and the West and understanding the current divide concerning history.
- The personal and the systemic – helping people we influence understand that there is more to every issue.
- Local church ministry is global mission and global mission must create and sustain flourishing churches: articulating a fresh ecclesiology.
- Getting the data right: significant trends in church affiliation.
- The crises and opportunities in discipleship and mission.
- Global competition for religious adherents and impact on local churches.
- Economic wisdom and the future of church planting, church revitalization, and impact in the community.
- Becoming a church for Monday: signs of awakening.

January 17: Read the first half of Guinness (to page 168)

January 24: Read the second half of Guinness (pages 169 to the end); First Journal due

January 31: Read the first half of Tisby (pages 9-110); Journal due

February 7: Read the second half of Tisby (pages 111-216); Journal due

February 14: Read the first half of Chaves (pages xiii-55); Journal due; Reading Review #1 (Guinness and Tisby)

February 21: Read the second half of Chaves (pages 56-122); Journal due

February 28: Read the first half of Stanton (pages xv-96); Journal due

March 6: Read the second half of Stanton (pages 97-194); Journal due

March 13: Read the first half of Self (pages xi-68); Journal due Review #2 (on Chaves and Stanton)

March 20: Read the second half of Self (pages 69-134); Journal due

March 27: Read the first half of Nelson (pages 1-93); Journal due

April 3: Read the second half of Nelson (pages 94-194); Journal due

April 10: Last Journal due and Reading Review #3 (Self and Nelson)

April 17: A time for reflection and writing

April 22 Final Project due

Syllabus prepared by Rev. Charles E. Self, Ph.D.
December, 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: *Insert your personal policy, if desired.*

EXAMPLE:

- *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:

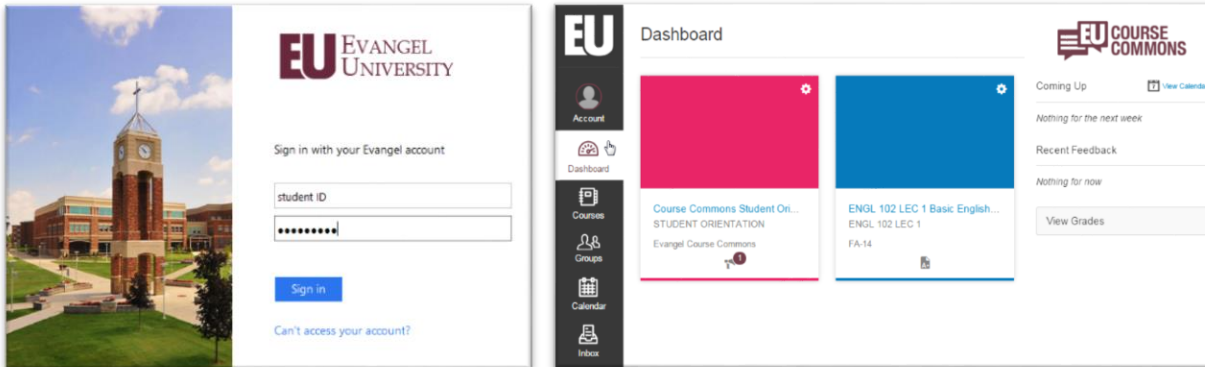
Evangel University is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated 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/>.

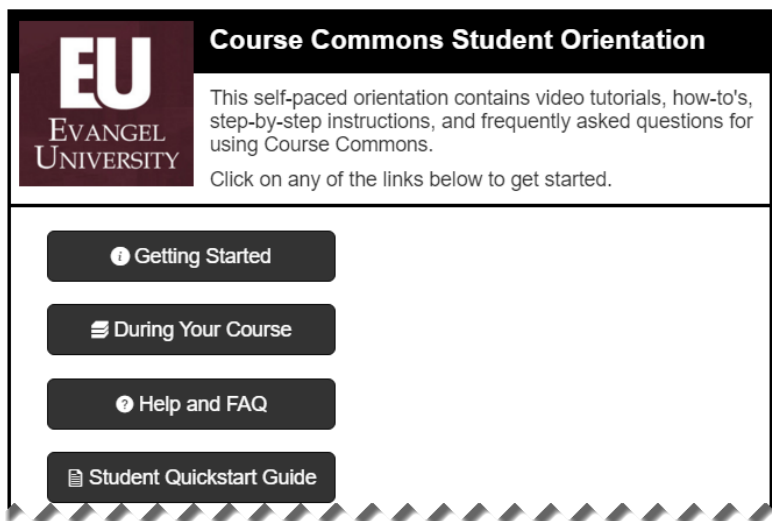


**Use your
Evangel**

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.

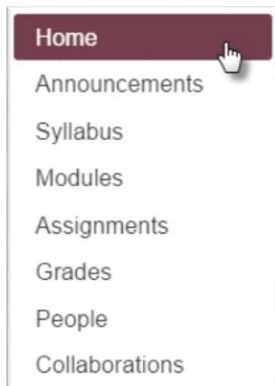
To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: [How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

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 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.

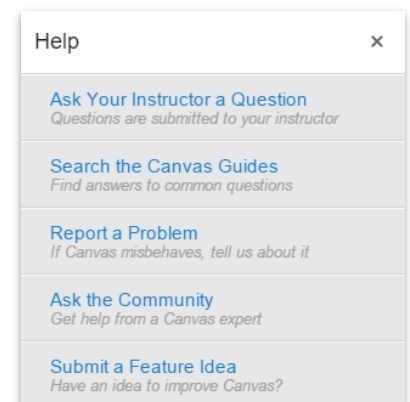
For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the *COURSE COMMONS* Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

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