

Course Syllabus
WYP 2810 Ministry and Technology
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology
Winter 2017

Instructor Information

Instructor: Thomas P. Power
Office Location: Leonard Hall, Wycliffe College
Telephone: Office – (416) 9468-3526
E-mail: thomas.power@wycliffe.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Identification

Course Number: WYP 2810
Course Name: Ministry and Technology
Course Location: Wycliffe College
Class Times: Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
Prerequisites: N/A

Course Description

Is it legitimate to use technology to communicate the gospel? This course examines the function and use of the tools of technology in the varied ministry of the church. It asks critical questions about technology and its use. In the context of addressing issues such as virtual community, media arts and worship, internet-based ministry, Christian education and youth ministry, and spirituality online, it seeks to equip students with discernment in this new area of ministry.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

1. E. Drescher & K. Anderson. *Click2Save: The Digital Ministry Bible* (New York: Morehouse, 2012).
2. Shane Hipps. *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, the Gospel, and Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).

Please purchase these in advance at CRUX Books, Wycliffe College, 5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, ON, Canada, M5S 1H7. 416-599-2749 or 1-866-607-3348. Email: sales@cruxbooks.com
Shipping and handling charges where applicable.

3. Supplementary readings, videos, and other resources will be found on the course website.
4. A bibliography of print and electronic resources will be on the course website.

Course Website(s)

Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask me for further help.

Course Learning Objectives

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will have acquired the following levels of knowledge:	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the Wycliffe College outcomes statement for the BD programs:
Demonstrate an awareness of the impact technology has on the church and ministry.	Course Units 1-12 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 1.4, 1.6 M.Div. 1.4, 1.6
Distinguish occasions and opportunities where the use of media and technology in worship is appropriate.	Course Unit 2 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 1.3, 2.1 M.Div. 2.1
Experience and reflect upon the role of a Christian in online contexts.	Course Units 3-7 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 1.6, 3.1, 3.3 M.Div. 1.6
Formulate a plan, according to established best principles and practices, for technological implementation in worship settings.	Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3 M.Div. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
Locate, examine, and evaluate, using established evaluative criteria, the representation of general	Course Units 3-7 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3 M.Div. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4

and church ministries online.		
Discover and critically evaluate the potential of internet evangelism.	Course Unit 3 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 2.2, 2.3, 3.3 M.Div. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4
Identify online educational opportunities for ministry.	Course Units 3-5 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 M.Div. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4
Formulate a plan for the deployment of social media in church ministry settings.	Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 M.Div. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4
Identify and explain the impact of technology on the practice of the spiritual disciplines	Course Units 8-10 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 2.1, 3.2 M.Div. 2.1, 3.2
Identify and explain the impact of technology on the practice of the gifts of the Holy Spirit	Course Unit 11 Short Assignments Major Assignment	MTS 2.1, 3.2 M.Div. 3.2, 3.2
Identify passages in Scripture from which the appropriate use of technology can be discerned	Course Units 3.4, 12 Biblical Verses Assignment	MTS 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1 M.Div. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3

Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas:

1. Short Assignment 1

Due Date: 31 Jan. 2017.

Value: 20%

2. Short Assignment 2

Due Date: 28 Feb. 2017.

Value: 20%

The purpose of these two short assignments is to give you the opportunity to develop your understanding of the technology and ministry in new ways. In other words, they are intended to stretch and challenge you. Thus, for example, if you have already had experience of doing a sermon using power point, don't choose that option here. Do something new. That applies to the other choices as well. If you have difficulty deciding, please be in touch with me for advice.

Options include: Chat exercise, testimonies, general/church website evaluation, online church evaluation, article critique, online prayer ministry, power point presentation, sermon, website development, technological integration in a church, gaming, or social media. Full details will be provided on the course website.

Because the options are varied no prescriptive word length can be specified for these short assignments. But the testimony option should be 1500 words (or 4-5 pages). For the others ask in advance when you are deciding.

3. Major Project

Due Date: 21 Mar. 2017.

Value: 40%

Here you have *two* choices:

a. Major Paper Length: 12 pages (single spacing) or 8-10,000 words. The subject matter can be on any aspect of the course. Here are some possibilities:

- (a) An extended treatment of some issue that arises in the four forums.
- (b) A topic of your own (please submit to me for approval)
- (c) An extended treatment of some of the issues covered in the Units.

Whatever the topic, you need to submit a paper proposal and outline (1 page minimum) with beginning bibliography by 1 Mar. 2017.

b. Development of a Digital Ministry.

Using the exercises in the course text, E. Drescher & K. Anderson. *Click2Save: The Digital Ministry Bible* (New York: Morehouse, 2012), develop a digital ministry for your church or your particular ministerial context. This will involve you working through the exercises and worksheets included in select chapters (1-2, 3 (where you have to decide if you belong to the novice, oblate, or superior categories), and 4).

Your submission will consist of:

- a. Copies (scanned) of the completed worksheets and exercises.
- b. URL of the church site showing the completed project.

4. Biblical Verses Exercise

Compile a list of 10 verses or passages from Scripture that are pertinent to a Christian understanding of the nature and use of technology. For each provide the following:

- i. The Scriptural reference to the verse/passage e.g. Luke 5: 37-38, but not the full text.
- ii. Short (paragraph length) commentary on the meaning and significance of the verse(s) or passage for our understanding of technology in a Christian context.

Due Date: 4 April 2017.

Value: 20%

Grading System

A+ (90-100)
A (85-89)
A- (80-84)
B+ (77-79)
B (73-76)
B- (70-72)
Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The penalty for late work is one mark per day. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor.

Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete course work by the penultimate assignment due date, may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information

is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks>) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges

(http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of assignments before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses.

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: Society, Technology, and the Church

1.1 Definitions and Themes

1.2 The Challenge of Postmodernism

1.3 Tower of Babel or Noah's Ark?: Technology and Ministry: For and Against 1

1.4 Tower of Babel or Noah's Ark?: Technology and Ministry: For and Against 2

UNIT 2: Media Arts and Worship

2.1 From Fresco to Fiasco: Christianity and the Arts

2.2 Worship and Technology: Theory

2.3 Worship and Technology: Practice

2.4 Presentation Technology: Principles and Best Practices

UNIT 3: How Can We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land?

3.1: The Net is the Thing (Dr. Seuss): Internet Evangelism I: Theory

3.2: Becoming Fishers of Men on the Net! Internet Evangelism II: Practice

3.3 Apologetics and the Online World

3.4 Bible Studies and the Online World

UNIT 4: From Publishing to Relationship: Web-Based Ministry

4.1 Content

4.2 Design

4.3 Educational Ministries

4.4 A Safe Place for a Dangerous Message: Youth Ministry

UNIT 5: Status Update: Technology & Relationships Online

5.1 Social Networking and Community Online

5.2 Online dating

5.3 Pornography

5.4 Eucatastrophe: Gaming

UNIT 6: Technology, Charity/Philanthropy, and Ministry

6.1 Technology & Philanthropy I

6.2 Technology & Philanthropy II

6.3 Ministry Responses

UNIT 7: Digital Transcendence: The Online Church

7.1 Worship

7.2 Sacraments

7.3 Cyber Koinonia: Community

7.4 Is it Church?

UNIT 8: Technology and the Spiritual Disciplines I: The Nature of Sin

8.1 Sin as Habit: The Need for Spiritual Disciplines

8.2 The Seven Deadly Sins

UNIT 9: Technology and the Spiritual Disciplines II: Principles and Practice

9.1 General Principles

9.2 Practices

UNIT 10: Technology and the Fruits of the Spirit I

UNIT 11: Technology and the Fruits of the Spirit II

11.1 Love, Kindness, Goodness

11.2 Joy, Peace, Kindness

11.3 Patience, Self-Control, Faithfulness

UNIT 12: Principles and Best Practices: Ministry and Technology in the 21st Century

12.1 iPastor Skills

12.2 iChurch

12.3 Being Salt and Light in Cyberspace: Theology of Technology

12.4 An Unchanging Gospel