

**Course Description for English 102: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”—An Inquiry into
American Evangelicalism**
Instructor: Curtis Sheidler

The word “evangelical” has been used to describe figures as diverse as Martin Luther King, Jr., Billy Graham, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, to name a few. Similarly, it can either simply describe a certain type of Christian theology or suggest a sinister worldview that seeks to acquire adherents through brainwashing or coercion, and to impose its own agenda on domestic and international politics. The goal of this course will be to examine evangelicalism on its own terms: What **is** evangelicalism? What does it **mean** to be evangelical? What basic assumptions are common to professing evangelicals, and how do these assumptions inform the various ways in which evangelicals have interacted with American culture? The class will be writing-intensive, employing studies in ethnography and formal research. Grades will be based upon three major written assignments, as well as smaller writing responses, quizzes, and class participation.