



EVAN6221 Church Revitalization
Internet Course
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Fall Semester 2021

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this class is to help students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to lead plateaued and declining churches in a variety of settings to become revitalized. This course provides the conceptual tools necessary to understand and work effectively in revitalizing churches by using a case study approach.

Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshipping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2020-2021 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition:* The student will discover passages of Scripture that will address biblical foundations for leadership in the local church or Christian ministry setting .
2. *Theological and historical perspective:* The course will provide a systematic and historical progression of church leadership and ministry as it has evolved to the requirements today.
3. *Effective servant leadership:* The course is designed not only to teach about servant leadership but also to encourage the student to practice this leadership style.
4. *Interpersonal relationships:* The course contains a strong emphasis on interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of leadership and administration.
5. *Disciple making:* In this course, students are encouraged to understand that the ultimate purpose of leadership is transforming.
6. *Worship leadership:* The course does not directly address worship leadership, however the leadership principles discussed will relate to any venue of ministry in the local church.
7. *Spiritual and character formation:* Students are taught that ministry leadership and administration should flow out of a transformational walk with Jesus Christ.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to serve churches effectively through team ministry, the students should:

- Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of key issues germane to effective church revitalization.
- Value leadership skills necessary for effective church revitalization.
- Be able to identify possible causes of plateau and decline of a local church in order to develop a strategy for revitalization of the selected local church.

Course Methodology

In coordination with Blackboard lectures, reading assignments, and threaded discussions, cases will be presented that involve the revitalization of small, medium, and large churches; churches in rural, small town, medium-sized cities, and metropolitan areas; churches with white, black, Hispanic, and Asian congregations; churches that have declined because of various problems; and churches that have not baptized anyone in years. Students will enhance their skills in leading church revitalization through three closely related ways:

1. Analyzing and developing solutions to different problems churches confront that hinder the revitalization process.
2. Constructing "principles for church revitalization" through case study discussions of revitalized churches in a variety of contexts.
3. Developing conceptual tools and frameworks that help make sense of how to revitalize churches.

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

- (1) *Reclaimed Church: How Churches Grow, Decline, and Experience Revitalization* by Bill Henard.
- (2) *There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* by Gary McIntosh.
- (3) *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches* by Mark Clifton

Course Requirements:

1. Video Lecture Quizzes (10%):

Each week students are expected to view video lectures provided by the professor. A five (5) question (multiple choice) quiz for each video lecture will post on Blackboard at the start of the week. Students will have until the upcoming Friday at 11:59 pm to complete each quiz.

2. Discussion Board Posts (20%):

Scheduled participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. **Class participation counts for 20% of a student's final grade.** Each Monday, the professor will post one or more questions on the Blackboard Discussion Board. Each student is expected to participate by responding to each of the professor's posted questions **no later than Thursday.** *Students should also respond to **at least one** other student's discussion board post.*

3. Book Reviews (30%):

Students will submit three book reports. Each review is to be double-spaced and **5 to 6 pages in length**, involving the following components: (1) summary of the contents of each book (no more than 2 pages), including strengths and weaknesses, (2) discussion of five [5] key insights and issues addressed in the books, (3) synthesis of three [3] implications of the books for 21st century church revitalization. Insights are concepts covered in the book that bring a new perspective, understanding, discernment, etc. to the process of revitalization. Implications are how the book shapes 21st century revitalization and practical examples of the implication. The integrative analysis must employ formal style according to Turabian.

- *Book Review (BR#1) Reclaimed Church: How Churches Grow, Decline, and Experience Revitalization* by Bill Henard? - **Due: Friday, September 17th (11:59pm).**
- *Book Review (BR#2) There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* by Gary McIntosh - **Due: Friday, Oct. 15th (11:59pm).**
- *Book Review (BR#3) Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches* by Mark Clifton.- **Due: Friday, Nov. 5th.**

4. Church Revitalization Strategy (40%):

- A major part of this course involves the student writing a Church Revitalization Strategy on the church that they are attending.
- The report should include an analysis of current conditions within the church and it's community.
- The report should include a suggested path toward revitalization of the church based upon the student's research and knowledge gained through the lectures, books and interactions of this course.
- Students must notify the professor via email the name and location of the student's church.
- They must then request demographic information and an internal growth analysis of the student's church from the Leavell Center for Evangelism & Church Health at NOBTS.
- The information will be provided to the student by the Leavell Center.

- The Center's demographer can be reached at lcresearch@nobts.edu or by calling (504) 816-8820.
- The final report should be in *.pdf **AND** either Word or WordPerfect format.
- The report must be presented in Blackboard by the due date.

The case study should follow the interview and reports guidelines posted on Blackboard. The report should be at least 15 double-spaced pages. **Due Date: Friday, December 3rd**.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week of August 24 th	Unit 1: Why Church Revitalization	Quiz #1
Week of August 30 th	Unit 2: Taking a Church Assessment	Quiz #2
Week of September 6 th	Unit 3: Physical Barriers to Growth	Quiz #3
Week of September 13 th	Unit 4: Community Demographics	Quiz #4/BR#1 (9/17)
Week of September 20 th	Unit 6: Losing Church Vision	Quiz #5
Week of September 27 th	Unit 7: The Change Matrix	Quiz #6
Week of October 4 th	Unit 8: Church Potential	Quiz #7
Week of October 11 th	Unit 9: Assessing the Situation	Quiz #8/BR#2 (10/15)
Week of October 18 th	FALL BREAK	
Week of October 25 th	Unit 10: Discerning God's Vision	Quiz #9
Week of November 1 st	Unit 11: Making Hard Decisions	Quiz #10/BR#3 (11/5)
Week of November 8 st	Unit 12: Refocusing the Ministry	Quiz #11
Week of November 15 st	Unit 13: Resistance	Quiz #12
Week of November 22 nd	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week of November 29 th	Unit 14: Breaking Through	Quiz #13

Final Week Project

Church Revitalization Strategy (12/3)

Evaluation of Grade

The requirements for the course and the contribution of each towards the final grade are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Video Lecture Quizzes	10%
Discussion Board Posts	20%
Book Review	30%
Church Revitalization Strategy	40%

Note: All work must be completed and received on due dates by the professor in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

VERY IMPORTANT: If a student communicates with the professor by email, note clearly in the subject line the **name of the course**. Due to junk email, if the purpose of the email is not clear, the message may be deleted without ever being read.

Blackboard Enrollment: Students will be enrolled in Blackboard by ITC.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

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