EVAN6221 Church Revitalization

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30-9:20am
Mentoring Fall 2022
Course begins August 16th

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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.

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.

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 lectures, videos, reading assignments, and in-class discussions, revitalization principles for leaders will be addressed, discussed, and analyzed. Principles representing small, medium, and large churches; churches in rural, small towns, medium-sized cities, and metropolitan areas 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 biblical standards and research 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.**

Rainer, Thom. *Anatomy of a Revived Church*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2019.

Cheyney, Tom. *Church Revitalization in Rural America.* Orlando, FL: Renovate Publishing Group, 2018.

McIntosh, Gary. *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.

Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying and Divided Churches*. Tain, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2016.

Course Requirements:

1. Mentorship Hours and Meetings Report <mark>Due each week</mark>
The student will be required to fulfill the requirements of the mentorship, including the minimum of 30 hours working in the ministry setting during the semester. These specified hours do not include the weekly scheduled times for worship and Bible study. The student will meet with the mentor each week to discuss personal and ministry issues and hours worked. The student will submit weekly reports of the mentorship and ministry experiences. The reports should be two paragraphs with one paragraph devoted to the mentorship experiences of the week and one paragraph devoted to the ministry experiences of the week. See videos for conversation topics, if needed.

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2. Biblical Basis Report <mark>Due August 26th@ 11:59pm</mark>
The student will present a 3 to 5 double-spaced page paper establishing a biblical foundation for church revitalization. Utilizing both the Old and New Testaments, the student will also include one biblical character who exemplifies church revitalization with lessons learned from their biblical

example.

3. Book Analysis:
 <mark>**Book #1 September 30th @ 11:59pm:**</mark> Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying and Divided Churches*. Tain, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2016.

<mark>**Book #2 Due October 21st @ 11:59pm**</mark> McIntosh, Gary. *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.

Each Analysis must include:
a. a synopsis of major themes of the book,

b. a critical analysis of strengths and limitations of the book,

c. and several principles (3-5) the student can derive for church revitalization.
d. Each review is to be 3-5 pages, double-spaced, employing Turabian.

4. Revitalization Plan Report <mark>**Due December 7th @ 11:59pm**</mark>
 Each student will develop a Church Revitalization Strategy for a church experiencing plateau or decline. The Strategy must employ insights from all of the required textbooks, presentations, and class discussions. The Church Revitalization Strategy paper should be 10 to 12 pages, double spaced`.
 The paper must include:
1. Introduction: This must explain the historical background of the church as extensively as necessary to accurately reflect the church's current state. Historical statistics, leadership structure, programming approaches, and overall culture of the church should be addressed.
2. Guiding Values: Provide an accurate biblical theology for church revitalization that serves as the basis for any efforts to bring revitalization to a local church. Be as comprehensive as possible to address the church, governance, mission, and vision.
3. Strategy: This will be the most comprehensive section (at least 4 pages of the paper) and should provide a clear pathway for your revitalization strategy. Address every aspect that will be involved in the strategy. Determine a reasonable but urgent timeline and provide details that coincide with the timeline.
4. Evaluation: How will you know when you have accomplished the goal? Provide a process of immediate and on-going evaluation. Who? How? When? What tools will you use?
5. Reflection: Based on what you have learned through this project, will you seek to execute this strategy? Explain the opportunities that are open to this strategy or the challenges and how you will overcome them for church revitalization

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

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage

1. Mentorship Hours/Meetings	Weekly Reporting	30%
2. Biblical Basis Report	August 26th @ 11:59pm	15%
3. Book Analysis #1	September 30th@ 11:59pm	15%
4. Book Analysis #2	October 21st@ 11:59pm	15%
5. Revitalization Plan Report	Dec. 7th @ 11:59pm	25%

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of "F" for the 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. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
 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.

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

Writing Style Guide
A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas 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.

Fall 2022 Semester Schedule

WEEK	DATE	UNIT	ASSIGNMENT	READINGS	THEME
Week 1	August 16 & 18	Unit 1	Complete the Reading	Brian Croft Section 1	**Statistical Revitalization**
Week 2	August 23 & 25	Unit 2	**Biblical Basis Report Due Aug 26th@ 11:59pm**	Brian Croft Section 2	**Biblical Revitalization**
Week 3	August 30 Sept. 1	Unit 3	Complete the Reading	Brian Croft Section 3	**Leading Revitalization**
Week 4	September 6 & 8	Unit 4	Complete the Reading	Thom Rainer Intro to Ch.2	**Personal Revitalization**
Week 5	September 13 & 15	Unit 5	Complete the Reading	Thom Rainer Ch.3 - Ch.5	**Conflict Revitalization**
Week 6	September 20 & 22	Unit 6	Complete the Reading	Thom Rainer Ch.6 - End	**Hopeful Revitalization**
Week 7	September 27 & 29	Unit 7	**Book Analysis #1 Due September 30th @ 11:59pm**	Review Reading for the Midterm	**Focused Revitalization**
Fall Break	October 4 & 6		Relax/catch up on reading.		**A Break from Revitalization**
Week 8	October 11 & 13	Unit 8	Complete the Reading	Gary McIntosh Ch.1 - CH.3	**Assessing Revitalization**
Week 9	October 18 & 20	Unit 9	**Book Analysis #2 Due October 21st @ 11:59pm**	Gary McIntosh Ch.4 - CH.6	**Shared Revitalization**
Week 10	October 25 & 27	Unit 10	Complete the Reading	Gary McIntosh Ch.7 - Ch.10	**Decaying Revitalization**
Week 11	November 1 & 3	Unit 11	Complete the Reading	Tom Cheyney Ch.1-3	**Supported Revitalization**

Week 12	November 8 & 10	Unit 12	Complete the Reading	Tom Cheyney Ch.11	**Casting Revitization**
Week 13	November 15 & 17	Unit 13	Complete the Reading	Tom Cheyney Ch.13	**Empowered Revitization**
Thanksgiving Break	November 22 & 24		Enjoy Family and Friends		**Turkey Revitalization**
Week 14	November 29 December 1	Unit 14	Complete the Reading	Review Tom Cheyney	**After Revitalization**
Finals	December 1 -7		**Revitalization Plan Report December 7th @11:59pm**		

*The Professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus due to extenuating circumstances (see course policies).