



## **EVAN6221 Church Revitalization Internet Class**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Pastoral Ministry Division

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

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**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.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course 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 students with the conceptual tools necessary to understand and work effectively in revitalizing churches by using a case study approach.

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary's core values are: (1) doctrinal integrity, (2) spiritual vitality, (3) mission focus, (4) characteristic excellence, and (5) servant leadership. The focus of the seminary during the academic year is **spiritual vitality**.

### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. Biblical exposition: The student will discover passages of Scripture that will address the revitalization of the local church.
2. Theological and historical perspective: The course will provide a theological basis and a historical understanding of church revitalization during recent church history.
3. Effective servant leadership: The course is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship and practice of servant leadership to church revitalization.

4. Interpersonal relationships: The course emphasizes the importance interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of church revitalization.

5. Disciple making: In this course, students are encouraged to understand that church revitalization must involve not just the revitalization of the church as an organization but also the revitalization the of the faith of individuals via discipleship.

6. Worship leadership: The relationship between the design of worship and both church decline and revitalization is noted in the course.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will learn and understand the process of church revitalization.
2. Students will study the importance of context to the revitalization process.
3. Students will become familiar with significant literature on church revitalization.
4. Students will learn how to lead their own church to become revitalized.

## **Required Reading**

Each student will read the required three textbooks: McIntosh, Gary. *Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There*. Baker Books, 2009; and McIntosh, Gary. *There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Baker Books, 2012; and Cheyney, Tom. *Thirty-Eight Church Revitalization Models for the Twenty First Century*. Renovate Publishing Group, 2014.

## **Course Teaching 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 the subject of church revitalization.

In addition to internet case/class interactions, students will have discussions with church leaders who have led their churches to become revitalized. This exposure to and interaction with these

real-world practitioners will help "bring to life" some of the issues discussed in the readings/cases.

## **Class Schedule**

Note the initial class schedule. After the total class enrollment is determined, the initial course schedule may be modified.

Guided by the course schedule with its due dates, students are expected to: (1) log on to Blackboard in order to: read and download the weekly materials and interact with the professor's questions and comments made by other students in the class via the class Discussion Board, (2) email assignments to the professor, and (3) contact and interview a leader of a revitalized church assigned by the professor in order to develop a case report on the church.

## **Course Assignments:**

### **A. Case Report:**

A major part of this course involves student developing a revitalization plan for their own church. Demographic information and an internal growth analysis of each church will be provided to the student by David, Research Assistant at the Leavell Center for Evangelism & Church Health at NOBTS. He can be reached at [lcresearch@nobts.edu](mailto:lcresearch@nobts.edu) or by calling 504-8168820. The student will take digital pictures of their church and community that will be used to develop a PowerPoint presentation along with the written report in pdf format **AND** either Word or WordPerfect format. Both the PowerPoint and report file will be emailed to the professor ([gdennis7@gmail.com](mailto:gdennis7@gmail.com)).

The case study should follow the report guidelines and examples posted on Blackboard. The report should be at least 12-15 double-spaced pages. It is intended to be an analytic report of issues central to the student's church. **Due date: July 31.**

### **B. Book Reports:**

Students will submit three book reports. Each report should contain a brief summary of the book. Most of the report should be an evaluation of the book in which the book's strengths and weaknesses are noted. The report should be emailed to the professor by midnight on the Monday of the week the class is scheduled discuss the book. The report should be at least five doublespaced pages. **Due dates:** *There's Hope for Your Church* - **June 30**, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level* - **July 15**, and *Turnaround and Beyond* - **July 15**.

### **C. Class Participation:**

Scheduled participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. **Class participation counts for 30% of a student's final grade.** Weekly the professor will post questions on the Blackboard Discussion Board. Each student is expected to participate by responding to each of the professor's posted questions.

## Course Evaluation

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

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Book Reports	30%
Discussion Board	30%
Revitalized Church Case Report	40%

## Course Policies

Students will be expected to have access to online resources to download course materials in the Seminary's Blackboard system.

Assignments will be emailed to the professor using either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect formats. An additional copy will be sent in .pdf format.

Assignments are expected to be submitted by 12 midnight via email on the date indicated on the class schedule. **Exceptions to this schedule must be approved by the professor before the due date.**

## Selected Bibliography

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