



EVAN6221 Church Revitalization

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Ministry

Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30-9:20am

Spring 2022, Course begins January 18, 2022

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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.

Bolsinger, Tod. *Tempered Resilience*. Downer Groves, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Course Requirements:

• **1. Biblical Basis Report Due January 28th @ 11:59pm**

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 to exemplify church revitalization.

• **2. Demographic's Report Due February 4th @ 11:59pm**

The student will present a 3 to 5 double-spaced page paper analyzing the demographics of the church mentored during the semester. The student will emphasize unique characteristics, opportunities for growth, and revitalization challenges. Demographic information can be obtained by contacting the North American Mission Board at lcresearch@nobts.edu or calling (504) 816-8820.

• **3. Church Health Report February 18th @ 11:59pm**

The student will present a 3 to 5 double-spaced page paper analyzing the church's health. The student will rate the following categories on a scale of one (1) to ten (10): Leadership, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry cohesion, fellowship, and friendliness. An explanation of the score rating and ways for category improvement should accompany each entry.

4. Revitalization Report March 4th @ 11:59pm

The student will present a 4 to 6 double-spaced page paper establishing steps for church revitalization. The student must establish an introduction for revitalization, a plan for revitalization, support needed for revitalization, challenges to revitalization, and best method for revitalization. More details forthcoming.

5. Book Reviews Book #1 Due March 25th @ 11:59pm | Book #2 Due April 8th @ 11:59pm

Each student will read and review *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* and *Tempered Resilience*. Each review 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 4-6 pages, double-spaced, employing Turabian.

6. Final Exam Opens May 2, 2022 - Closes May 6th @ 11:59pm

A final exam will reflect all readings, PowerPoint, and in-class material covered throughout the semester. Details about the exam will be discussed as the exam date nears.

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. Biblical Basis Report	January 28th @ 11:59pm	20%
2. Demographic's Report	February 4th @ 11:59pm	10%
3. Church Health Report	February 18th @ 11:59pm	10%
4. Revitalization Plan Report	March 4th @ 11:59pm	20%
5. Book Review #1	March 25th @ 11:59pm	10%
6. Book Review #2	April 8th @ 11:59pm	10%
7. Final Exam	Opens May 2, 2022 Closes May 6th @ 11:59pm	20%

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.

Semester Schedule

1. Jan 18	Biblical Revitalization	Introduction
2. Jan 24	<i>Anatomy of a Revived Church</i>	Chapters 1-3
3. Jan 31	<i>Anatomy of a Revived Church</i>	Chapters 4-7
4. Feb 7	Sabotage in Revitalization <i>Tempered Resilience</i>	Introduction & Chapter 1
5. Feb 14	Pain & Gain in Revitalization <i>Tempered Resilience</i>	Chapter 3 & 6
6. Feb 21	Reality from Rural <i>Rural Revitalization</i>	Introduction - Chapter 1

7. Feb 28	Reality from Rural <i>Rural Revitalization</i>	Chapters 2-3
8. Mar 7	Revitalization Pitfall Student Lectures	T.B.A.
SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
9. Mar 21	See Potential Commit to Lead	<i>There is Hope For Your Church</i> Chapter 1-2
10. Mar 28	Assess The Situation Learn the Principles	<i>There is Hope For Your Church</i> Chapter 3-4
11. Apr 4	Discern God's Vision Build a Coalition	<i>There is Hope For Your Church</i> Chapter 5-6
12. Apr 11	Lift the Morale Make Hard Decisions	<i>There is Hope For Your Church</i> Chapter 7-8
13. Apr 18	Refocus The Ministry Equip for change	<i>There is Hope For Your Church</i> Chapter 9-10
14. Apr 25	Deal With Resistance Stay the Course Breaking Through	<i>There is Hope For Your Church</i> Chapter 11-13

Selected Bibliography

Revitalization, Church Growth, and Church Health

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- _____. *Evangelism That Works: How to Reach Changing Generations with the Unchanging Gospel*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1995.
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