



EVS9302 Church Growth Methods
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pastoral Ministries Division
Fall Semester 2019 (8/29, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5) Thursdays 6-8pm cst

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Mission Statement

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.

We are here not 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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. 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. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Spiritual Vitality**.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The Curriculum Competencies to be addressed include Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, and Spiritual and Character Formation.

Course Description

This colloquium is designed to direct students majoring in evangelism in the Doctor of Philosophy program in foundational readings related generally to the field of church growth.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the colloquium, the students should be able to:

1. Communicate a broad understanding of materials related to church growth.
2. Develop a literature review for their oral exam in the area of church growth.

Course Teaching Methodology

Guided by the professor, this colloquium is a resource-driven learning experience that involves the selection and reading of texts germane to selected issues in church growth. Also, it is an opportunity to explore potential research projects for a dissertation.

During the first week of the colloquium, the student will be assigned various books to read and present to the seminar. Requests can be made before the first week through email with the professor.

Textbooks

Session One (August 29, 2019)

McGavran, Donald A. *Understanding Church Growth*. 3rd ed. Revised by C. Peter Wagner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Sessions Two - Four (Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5):

In seminar sessions 2-4, students will discuss six books per session (two per student). Each student will be responsible for reading the books assigned to them. Assignments will be made

during the first session (or by email). Each student will write a 5 page review of the assigned books. Copies will be distributed to the professor and the students in the class.

You should note the following...

1. Each student has 2 books for which they are responsible for each seminar session.
2. Each student will be responsible for leading the discussion for their assigned books.
3. Each student preparing a written review will want to write with the knowledge that fellow students will want a quality review. The review will need at least the following components: data on the author, summary of the contents, the place of the book in the field (particular contribution to the field), and overall evaluation. Use a form that fits the text (can use some bulleted points) and the need for you and other students to reread your review in preparation for qualifying and/or oral exam. Length can vary, but 5 pages should be adequate if you make your words count.

Course Evaluation

The final grade will be determined by the professor's evaluation of the student's written work and oral presentations, taking into account style, critical thinking, design, subject coverage and other related matters.

Technical or Blackboard Issues

The course professor is not responsible for resolving technical or Blackboard issues. If the student experiences difficulties please contact the NOBTS ITC Support Team.

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the selfserve.nobts.edu website (access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests

[504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website

Netiquette: appropriate online behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

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 and Graduate Catalog for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the

student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of “F” will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out” (Prov 10:19).

Disclaimer

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, the student will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This independent study proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he reasonably thinks that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the student.

In Case Of A Declared Campus Evacuation

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.

Church Growth Bibliography

Professional Journals, Magazines, and Newsletters

- Cell Church*. Randall Neighbour, ed. TOUCH Outreach Ministries, Inc., PO Box 19888, Houston, TX 77224. Web site: www.touchusa.org. Quarterly.
- Church Growth Today*. John N. Vaughan, editor. Southwest Baptist University, 1202 E. Austin, Bolivar, Missouri 65613. Bi-monthly. Focuses on large churches.
- Evangelism*. Joel D. Heck, editor. Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, Wisconsin 53097-2402. No longer in publication but back issues contain helpful articles.
- Hinton Herald: A Resource for Church of Small Membership*. Hinton Rural Life Center, PO Box 27, Hayesville, North Carolina 28904. 704-389-8336. Web site: hinton.sejac-umc.org. Quarterly.
- Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education*. Richard Stoll Armstrong, ed. Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education. Annual.
- Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*. Office of Continuing Education, Fuller Theological Seminary, 135 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91182. 1-626-584-5293. Web site: www.ascg.org. Three times per year.
- Leadership*. Kevin A. Miller, ed. 465 Gundersen Drive, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. Web site: www.christianitytoday.com/leaders. Quarterly.
- Mikros: A Newsletter Written for Small Church Leaders*. Glenn C. Daman, editor. Western Institute for Small Church Health, 5511 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97215. 1-800-547-4546. Web site: www.westernseminary.edu/ichsma07.html. Bi-monthly.
- Net Results*. 5001 Avenue N., Lubbock, Texas 79412-2993. 806-762-8094. Thomas Bandy, editor. Web site: www.netresults.org. Monthly. Includes monthly columns by Lyle Schaller, Dale Galloway, Bill Easum, and George W. Bullard, Jr.
- Next*. Leadership Network, PO Box 9100, Tyler, Texas 75711-9100. 1-800-765-5323. Web site: www.leadnet.org.
- Strategies for Today's Leaders: Global Church Growth*. Kent R. Hunter, editor. American Society for Church Growth, 1230 US 6, PO Box 145, Corunna, Indiana 46730. Web site: www.strategiesfortoday.org. Quarterly.

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