



EVAN9403 Church Growth Foundations and Development

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Spring Semester 2020 (2/5, 3/5, 4/9, 5/7)

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Mission Statement

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

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to help students study the Church Growth Movement in America from the middle part of the 20th century to the present.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn and understand the Church Growth Movement particularly in the United States.
2. Students will study the importance of internal and external factors to church growth.
3. Students will become familiar with significant literature on the Church Growth Movement.
4. Students will learn how to lead their own church to experience growth.

Course Teaching Methodology

1. Professor supervision: The professor will guide students in addressing the areas of study necessary to accomplish the seminar objectives.
2. Individual work: Each student will be expected to read, conduct research, and engage in critical thinking and clear writing.
3. Group discussion: Each student will be expected to participate in all seminar discussions and group discussions outside of seminar time.

Textbooks

Each student will read the three required study resources. The resources are:

McGavran, Donald A. *Understanding Church Growth*. 3rd ed. revised and edited by C. Peter Wagner. **Report Due: Feb. 5.**

McIntosh, Gary, ed. *Evaluating the Church Growth Movement: 5 Views*. **Report. Due: Feb. 5.**

Rainer, Thom S. *The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation*. **Report Due: Mar. 5**

Seminar Requirements:

1. Book Reports:

Each student will submit a 5-7 page (double-spaced) critique of each book:

Answer at least the following.

- a. What was the author(s)'s primary purpose in writing this book?
- b. A brief summary of the book.
- c. Did the author accomplish his purpose?
- d. Complete a thorough a synthesis, what were the larger messages of this book?
- e. What were the strengths/weaknesses of the book?

Each student will be expected to lead the seminar discussion related to their assigned portions of the textbooks.

2. Seminar Paper:

During this semester, research papers related to church growth will be researched by each student. Each seminar will involve discussions of research methods and evaluation will be discussed by the professor and class.

Seminar papers (35-40 pages, double-spaced) will be written on the assigned topic. Papers will be written in an appropriate style and quality acceptable for possible publication in a book or journal.

Printed and electronic copies of the seminar paper will be submitted to the professor.

Complete research papers will be discussed on April 9 and May 7.

3. Reviews

Each seminar member will serve as the primary reviewer for one of the other papers (requirement #2). **All seminar members** are required to submit a 2 page review of **each paper** with the following issues addressed: form/style/grammar, bibliography, organization, logic flow, and quality of research/content. A copy goes to the paper's author and to the professor.

4. Final Paper

Each seminar member is to submit a typed (single-spaced) final exam on the last seminar day.

The final exam is to consist of the following components:

- a. A two-page (or less) discussion of two or more transferable concepts and principles for church growth from this seminar study of Church Growth Foundations and Development;
- b. A two-page (or less) annotated bibliography of five books which supplement the seminar syllabus bibliography on Church Growth. Each book's annotation should summarize and evaluate in no more than one to two paragraphs.
- c. A two-page (or less) listing of helpful print and electronic resources pertaining to church growth. The listing must include a minimum of five print resources (i.e., journals and/or periodicals—but not books) and five electronic resources (e.g., electronic books, journals, or newsletters; audio or video tapes; CD-Rom or other diskettes; church growth websites—but no more than three such websites).

Research and Writing Guidelines

1. All research should be documented from original sources as much as possible.
2. The use of secondary sources for documentation should be limited to reputable writers, researchers, and publishers (e.g., be careful concerning Internet websites).
3. Dissertations and theses may be referenced, but they should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports (except in the dissertation abstract assignment).

4. Interviews may be utilized for content formulation and documentation with regard to original and secondary documentation, but should not constitute the majority of the resources consulted nor of the content formulated in written reports without permission of the professor.
5. Written papers should conform to the eighth edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian, except as noted in the delineation of individual seminar assignments.

Schedule of Seminar Sessions

Because the seminar will only meet four times during the semester, students should take careful note of the assignments and the corresponding due dates. All Assignments are to be posted on Blackboard in the appropriate Link and Forum created in Discussion Board. Students are to bring a hard copy of all assignments for Dr. Rice.

Feb. 5, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Intro to the Seminar
Discussion of *Understanding Church Growth*
Discussion of *Evaluating the Church Growth Movement*

Mar. 5, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Discussion of *Evaluating the Church Growth Movement*
Discussion of *The Post Quarantine Church*
Church Growth Discussion

Apr. 9, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Seminar Paper presentations
Reviews

May 7, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Seminar Paper presentations
Reviews
Submission of Final Paper

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.

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

Book Reports	30%
Seminar Paper	40%
Reviews	20%
Final Paper	10%

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.

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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