

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40280

Cross Cultural Church Planting – 33830

SYLLABUS

Spring 2007

T, R 1:00-2:15 PM

Three Credit Hours

Room

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of church planting in cross-cultural contexts. The course will expose the students to the anthropological, sociological, and missiological factors that affect church planting across cultures. Students will also be exposed to resources that aid church planters in their work.

Course Objectives: The student who successfully completes this course should be able to:

1. Define “church planting,” and “church planting movements.”
2. Explain what is an indigenous church.
3. Explain a reproducible strategy for leadership development in new churches.
4. Understand the role of church planting movements in the growth of the Church.
5. Discuss the various components of church planting movements.
6. List and describe hindrances to church planting movements.
7. Discuss the biblical basis and theological foundation for church planting.
8. Discuss the importance of God’s “call” in the life of the church planter.
9. Understand the importance of a reproducible church planting strategy and the components of this kind of strategy.
10. Develop a strategy for church planting among a particular ethno-linguistic group.
11. Lists the strengths and limitations of church planting strategies.
12. Develop a philosophy of ministry that includes church multiplication.
13. Critically interact with contemporary church planting thoughts through small group and classroom discussions, guest lecturers, and written assignments.
14. Understand both the importance of and general components of cultural research in any given church planting endeavor.
15. List and describe the models of church planting discussed in the course.

16. Learn about the cultural challenges of church planting in Russia, Quebec, Western Africa, Pacific Rim, Central/Eastern Europe, Argentina, and among Native American/First Nations Peoples.
17. Improve research, writing, and communication skills through class participation and assignments.
18. Improve in personal evangelism skills.

Required Texts

Brock, Charles. *Indigenous Church Planting: A Practical Journey*. Neosho, MO: Church Growth International, 1994.

Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. Midlothian, VA: WIGTake Resources, 2004.

Hesselgrave, David. *Planting Churches Cross-culturally: North America and Beyond*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000.

Other Required Readings

Payne, J. D. "The Influence of Roland Allen on 21st Century Church Planting." Available in the Article section of www.northamericanmissions.org.

_____. "Church Planting and the Great Commission." In Chuck Lawless and Thom Rainer, eds., *The Challenge of the Great Commission*. N.p.: Pinnacle Publishers, 2005. Available in the Article section of www.northamericanmissions.org.

NAMB Ecclesiological Guidelines for Church Planters (Available at http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Church_Planting_Center/Resources.aspx)

IMB Ecclesiological Guidelines (Available to download from Handout Section of Ecampus)

Nehemiah Project Manual (Available at http://www.sbts.edu/campus_life/Church_Planting_Center/Resources.aspx)

Course Requirements

1. **Participation and Attendance.** Because this course will include lectures, small group discussion, videos, guest speakers, and presentations, students are expected to participate actively in each class. Punctual attendance is expected. Unexcused absences will hinder the student's grade.

2. **Reading reports.** Students are expected to have read all of the required assignments prior to the particular class on which they are due. Students are expected to be prepared to discuss all reading assignments on the specific due dates. On the day that each reading is due, students will be asked to submit a reading report regarding the percentage of the reading completed. The reading reports will be averaged to determine the student's reading grade for the course. Students are expected to turn in the reading reports at the beginning of each class. Reports not submitted at the beginning of class will be considered late work (see section discussing Late Work). Reading reports are available to download from Ecampus.
3. **Personal Reflection Paper: I. E. M.** Students are to complete a 3-4 page critical reflection paper answering the following question: "What is the Irreducible Ecclesiological Minimum?" This assignment will be evaluated on how well the student has thought through his or her ecclesiology and interacts with the readings, lectures, and discussion material in relation to the definition and functions of the local church and the characteristics of local church leadership. **Due February 15.**
4. **Personal Reflection Paper: CPMs.** After reading Garrison's book and watching *Church Planting Movements*, students will complete a 3-4 page critical reflection paper answering the following questions: 1) What are the necessary components for church planting movements? and 2) What excites me and concerns me about such movements. This assignment will be evaluated on how well the student has thought through the materials read, watched, and discussed in class and supports his or her convictions. **Due March 13.**
5. **Personal evangelism.** Since church planting is evangelism that results in new churches, students are expected to be involved in sharing their faith this semester. Four witnessing reports are **due May 3**. Students are encouraged to share the gospel in what would constitute a cross-cultural evangelistic encounter. Report forms will be available on Ecampus.
6. **Church Planting Fellowship Events.** During this semester, various denominational agencies are hosting Fellowship Events on campus. These are **free** brunches or lunches and are scheduled at various times throughout this semester. One hour of these meetings is devoted to the hosts sharing about church planting opportunities in their areas. Students must attend three of these events. Students will be expected to sign a sheet stating which events they attended. This sheet is **due May 3**. **Please note: You must make reservations through the Church Planting Center at least one week before the scheduled meeting.** Call, visit, or email Kari Plevan in Norton 167, 897-4498, or churchplanting@sbts.edu. Also, please do not make reservations and then cancel. The hosts pay for these events based on the number of people that RSVP. The following is the Fellowship Event schedule for the Fall semester:

**Friday, February 23 11:30-12:30 David Jackson, Church
Planting Strategist, Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention
RSVP by 2/15**

**Friday, March 2 11:30-12:30 Brad Veitch, Church
Planting Strategist, New York Baptist Convention
RSVP by 2/22**

**Wednesday, March 21 10:00-11:00 Gary Irby, Church
Planting Strategist, Puget Sound Baptist Association, Northwest Baptist
Convention
RSVP by 3/14**

**Friday, April 20 11:30-12:30 Gary Smith, Church
Starting Strategist for Eastern Canada, Canadian Convention of Southern
Baptists
RSVP by 4/12**

7. **Research/Strategy Paper.** Students will complete a research paper detailing a strategy for planting churches in a specific ethno-linguistic group. This paper is to be 18-20 pages in length and must follow the proper seminary style and form. The paper should contain at least the following: a description of the people-group's location, history, and culture; an explanation of their religious orientation and worldview; a description of the status of Christianity in that group; and a projected strategy for planting and developing churches among the people. **Due May 1.**
8. **Final Exam.** A final exam will be given over any discussion/lecture/video material presented in class. The final exam will consist of short answer questions designed to test for factual knowledge. **Due TBA.**

Extra Credit on Final Exam:

Church Planting Conferences. The Church Planting Center is sponsoring three church planting conferences this semester. In order to receive extra credit, you must attend one of these events in its entirety.

Wednesday, February 21 – Cross Cultural Church Planting in North America,
Dr. Van Sanders, Missiology Implementation Manager, North American Mission
Board
Must RSVP by 2/15

Friday, March 16 – Rural Church Planting, Steve Nerger, Strategic Places Team
Manager, North American Mission Board
Must RSVP by 3/8

Wednesday, April 18 – Church Planting in Multihousing Communities, Bob Burton, Multi-housing and Urban Church Planting, North American Mission Board
Must RSVP by 4/12

The conferences are scheduled from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. Lunch is provided, but you must RSVP to the Church Planting Center, x4498 churchplanting@sbts.edu. Extra credit is only given for one conference. For those students who attend the conference in its entirety, one quality point will be added to their Final Exam score. Therefore, if you scored a B (90%) on your Final Exam, your grade will be raised to a B+ (92%).

EVALUATION/GRADING:

Reading Reports	15%
Personal Reflection Paper: CPMs	15%
Personal Reflection Paper: I.E.M.	15%
Personal Evangelism Reports	10%
Fellowship Events	5%
Research/Strategy Paper	25%
Final Exam	15%
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Total	100%

Students should follow the seminary's manual of style and form for all written assignments.

The following is the grading scale used for this course:

A	98-100	C	83-80
A-	97-95	C-	79-77
B+	94-92	D+	76-75
B	91-89	D	74-73
B-	88-87	D-	72-70
C+	86-84	F	below 70

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, course objectives, general content, grading criteria, course requirements, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. The instructor, however, reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of the events and circumstances that change during the term.

LATE WORK: All assignments are due **in class** on the assigned dates. All late work will be penalized one quality point per day the assignment is late (this includes weekends). Assignments turned in after class, yet on the same day that they are due, will still be considered late work.

NOTE: In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

First Things First

January 30 Overview and Introductions

Biblical, Theological, and Missiological Principles

February 1 Nehemiah Project and Cross Cultural Church Planting
Personal Assumptions, Presuppositions, and Convictions Regarding Church Planting
Ecclesiological Issues
Nehemiah Project Manual
NAMB Ecclesiological Guidelines for Church Planters
IMB Ecclesiological Guidelines

February 6 Ecclesiological Issues
Definition of Biblical Church Planting
What is Indigenous Church Planting?

Payne “Church Planting and the Great Commission.” Available in the Article section of www.northamericanmissions.org. Brock 89-95

February 8 Church Planting in Russia
Troy Bush, former IMB missionary

Payne, “The Influence of Roland Allen on 21st Century Church Planting.” Available in the Article section of www.northamericanmissions.org.

February 13 Ecclesiological Issues: Common Paradigms
Video: *Church Planting Movements*
Church Planting Movements
Brock 22-88

- February 15 What is a Church Planter?
 Calling to Cross Cultures
Due: Personal Reflection Paper: I.E.M.
- February 20 Family Issues in a Cross cultural Setting
Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*
- February 22 The Holy Spirit and Church Planting
 Receptivity and Church Planting
Hesselgrave 1-51
- February 27 Exegeting Your World: Contextualization and
 Church Planting
 Video: *Peace Child*
Brock 96-123
- March 1 Exegeting Your World: Research and Cross-
 cultural Church Planting
Hesselgrave 52-72
- March 6 Church Planting in South America
 Clayton, Missionary to Argentina
Hesselgrave 73-89
- March 8 Oikos Units and the Church Planters
 The Birth of a Church
Hesselgrave 90-191
- March 13 Church Planting Among Native Americans/First
 Nations Peoples Guest Lit McIntosh, National
 Missionary to Native American/Emerging People
 Groups, NAMB
Due: Personal Reflection Paper: CPMs
- March 15 Leadership Development
 Phase Out—Organic Model
Brock 133-149, 214-219

Church Planting Models

- March 20 Leadership Development
 Planting Cell Churches
Brock, 124-132
- March 22 Planting Cell Churches
Brock 151-213

March 27	Planting House Churches Brock 220-End
March 29	Planting House Churches Hesselgrave 192-218
April 3	Church Planting in West Africa Live via phone Cal, church planter, West Africa Hesselgrave 219-253
April 5	Other Church Planting Models Hesselgrave 254-278
April 10	Spring Reading Days
April 12	Spring Reading Days
April 17	Church Planting in the Pacific Rim Region Guest Keith, church planter Hesselgrave 279-292
April 19	Church Planting in Eastern Canada (Quebec) Gary Smith, Church Starting Strategist for Eastern Canada Hesselgrave 293-307

Strategy Development in Church Planting

April 24	Developing Reproducible Strategies
April 26	Prayer and Church Planting Developing Church Planting Teams Hesselgrave 308-321
May 1	Church Planting in Central/Eastern Europe Live via phone Mark, Team Budapest Due Research/Strategy Paper
May 3	Tentmaking Review for Final Exam Personal Evangelism Reports Fellowship Report Form
May 8 or 10	Final Exam??