

EVAN6320 VITAL SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

I. NOBTS Mission Statement:

The mission is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

II. NOBTS Core Values:

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

III. Course Description

The purpose of this class is to help students define a healthy church, discover biblical principles of healthy churches, to become familiar with current research on healthy churches, and to learn vital signs of a healthy church. Students should be able to diagnose church growth diseases.

IV. Course Methodology

- A. On-line Lectures. The lectures of the professor will be a resource material for the course. Students will present their papers and lead the discussion on their assigned topics.
- B. Discussion. There will be threaded discussions based on questions raised in the assigned reading and in the lectures.
- C. Experience. The student will be expected to be involved in diagnosing the health of a church throughout the term, and to share these insights with the class via email and threaded discussion.
- D. Conferences. Discussions with the professor is invited and may be accomplished via email or telephone.

V. Course Objectives

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of the Church Growth Movement.
2. Students will learn how to define a healthy church, diagnose church disease, and recognize the vital signs of church health.
3. Students will become familiar with resources in the areas of Church Growth and Church Health.
4. Students will study and evaluate several church health instruments.
5. Students will use a selected church health instrument to study the health of a selected church. Results will be analyzed and recommendations noted in a report.

VI. Course Requirements

1. Each student will read the required the five textbooks: Understanding Church Growth, 3 rev. sub ed. by Donald McGavran and Peter Wagner, rd 9 Marks of a Healthy Church, new expanded edition by Mark Dever, The Measure of a Healthy Church by Gene A. Getz, Natural Church Development by Christian Schwarz, and Becoming a Healthy Church and Becoming a Healthy Church Workbook both by Stephen Macchia. A knowledge of the assigned texts will be necessary for adequate involvement in threaded discussions. While five books are assigned to be read, they are fairly inexpensive. The total cost for the five books should be less than \$90.
2. Students will read Thom Rainer's dissertation, An Assessment of C. Peter Wagner's Contributions to the Theology of Church Growth. The dissertation can be accessed in the Documents section of Blackboard. Students will prepare a report on the dissertation. The five page report will discuss two ideas that impacted them the most. **The report will be due at the beginning of week 5 of the semester.**
3. Together the class will develop a survey instrument to be used in evaluating the health of his/her church. **The report will be developed during week 12 of the semester.**
4. Focusing on one book in the Bible, each student will develop a paper on the biblical basis for Church Health. A typed, ten page (minimum), double-spaced report be prepared by the student. **The report is due at the beginning of week 15 of the semester.** An email attachment of the report will be sent to the professor.
5. In consultation with the professor, each student will develop a report on a healthy, growing church. A fifteen page (minimum), double-spaced report will be emailed to the professor. The report will involve interviews, a demographic analysis, a history of the church, the problems encountered, and the strategy used in the church's growth. The student will **The report is due at the beginning of week 16 of the semester.**

Notes:

- 1) All work is due **by 11:59 PM by email on the due date.** A 3 point reduction in grade will be assessed for the first day an assignment is late. A 3 point reduction will be assessed for each additional day an assignment is late.
- 2) All work submitted for this class is to be **typed. Grammar** will be considered in the grading of all papers. Papers will be graded based on 80% content and 20% grammar. **(1 Cor. 10:31b)**

Netiquette Statement on 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 will be expected at all times in the online environment.

VII. Course Grading Procedures

Percent of Grade:

1. Threaded Discussion 25%
2. Rainer Dissertation Analysis 15%
3. Joint Survey Project 10%
4. Biblical Basis of Church Health 20%

5. Healthy Church Report 30%

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