



EVAN6221 Church Revitalization

Hybrid Class

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Pastoral Ministry Division

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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.

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 servant leadership**

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.

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** The student will discover passages of Scripture that will address the revitalization of the local church.
2. **Theological Heritage:** The course will provide a theological basis for understanding church revitalization.
3. **Disciple Making:** In this course, students are encouraged to understand that church revitalization must involve not just the revitalization of the church as an organization but also the revitalization of the faith of individuals via discipleship.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** The course emphasizes the importance interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of church revitalization.
5. **Servant leadership:** The course is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship and practice of servant leadership to church revitalization.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** Through assigned texts and class discussion, students will become familiar with the importance spiritual life and character of those individuals leading and implementing the revitalization of churches.
7. **Worship leadership:** The relationship between the design of worship and both church decline and revitalization is noted in the course.

Course Description

The purpose of this course 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 students with the conceptual tools necessary to understand and work effectively in revitalizing churches by using a case study approach.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn and understand the process of church revitalization.
2. Students will study the importance of context to the revitalization process.
3. Students will become familiar with significant literature on church revitalization.
4. Students will learn how to lead their own church to become revitalized.

Course Teaching Methodology

In coordination with Blackboard lectures, reading assignments, and threaded discussions, cases will be presented that involve the revitalization of small, medium, and large churches; churches in rural, small town, medium-sized cities, and metropolitan areas; churches with white, black, Hispanic, and Asian congregations; churches that have declined because of various problems; and churches 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 case study discussions of revitalized churches in a variety of contexts.
3. Developing conceptual tools and frameworks that help make sense of how to revitalize churches.

Textbooks

Bill Henard, *Can These Bones Live? A Practical Guide to Church Revitalization*

Harry L. Reeder, *From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church*

Gary McIntosh, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There*

These three books will cost about \$50.

Course Requirements:

A. Case Report:

A major part of this course involves the student writing a report on the church that they are attending. Students must notify the professor via email the name and location of the student's church. They must then request demographic information and an internal growth analysis of the student's church from the Leavell Center for Evangelism & Church Health at NOBTS. The information will be provided to the student by the Leavell Center. The Center's demographer can be reached at lcresearch@nobts.edu or by calling 504- 816-8820. The final report should be in *.pdf **AND** either Word or WordPerfect format. The report will be emailed to the professor (gdennis7@gmail.com).

The case study should follow the interview and reports guidelines posted on Blackboard. The report should be at least 15 double-spaced pages. **Due Date: April 30.**

B. Book Reports:

Students will submit three book reports. Each report should contain a brief summary of the book. **Most of the report** should be an evaluation of the book in which the book's strengths and weaknesses are noted. The report should be at least five double-spaced pages.

C. Class Participation:

Scheduled participation through class discussion on Blackboard is integral to the design of this course. **Class participation counts for 20% of a student's final grade.** Each Monday the professor will post one or more questions on the Blackboard Discussion Board. Each student is expected to participate by responding to each of the professor's posted questions no later than Thursday. Students should also respond to at least one other student's discussion board post.

Evaluation of Grade

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

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Book Reports	30%
Discussion Board	20%
Revitalized Church Case Report	50%

Note: **All work must be completed and received by the professor in order to receive a passing grade in this course.**

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.

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.

Course Schedule

1. Class will meet from 1-4:50 pm on Jan. 27, Feb.24, March 17, and April 21.
2. Lectures and course material will be posted each week on Monday.
3. Book Report due dates:
Bill Henard, *Can These Bones Live?* - Due: February 24
Harry L. Reeder. *From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church* - Due: March 17.
Gary McIntosh, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level* - Due: April 21
4. Church Revitalization Report Due April 30.

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