



EVAN6221 Church Revitalization (Mentoring)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Pastoral Ministry Division Spring Semester, 2019

Dr. Bill Day

Office: Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health

Office Phone: 504-816-8820

Office hours: 8AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday

Home Phone: 504-472-9021

Cell Phone: 504-234-4262

Email Address: bday@nobts.edu

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 worshipping 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 doctrinal integrity.

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 Objectives

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

This course will feature a variety of teaching/learning methods including lecture, dialogue, required reading, mentor discussions, testimonies, reports, research/reflection project and personal evangelistic efforts in the context of church revitalization.

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 four books will cost about \$50.

Course Requirements:

A. **Book Reports:** Each student will read the required textbooks and submit an integrative analysis for each book. The assignment is to be double-spaced and four to five pages in length, involving the following components: (1) summary of the contents of the book, including strengths and weaknesses, (2) discussion of five [5] key insights and issues addressed in the book, (3) synthesis of five [5] implications of the book for 21st century church revitalization. The integrative analysis must employ formal style according to Turabian, 6th edition, regarding cover page, margins, pagination, footnotes, headings/subheadings, etc. No first person allowed.

B. **Mentorship Hours and Meetings:** The student will be required to fulfill the requirements of the mentorship, including the minimum of 30 hours working in the ministry setting during the semester. These specified hours do not include the weekly scheduled times for worship and Bible study. The student will meet with the mentor each week to discuss personal and ministry issues and hours worked. The student will submit weekly reports of the mentorship and ministry experiences. The reports should be two paragraphs with one paragraph devoted to the mentorship experiences of the week and one paragraph devoted to the ministry experiences of the week.

C. Church Revitalization Strategy: Each student will develop a Church Revitalization Strategy for a church experiencing plateau or decline. The Strategy must employ insights from all of the required textbooks, presentations, and class discussions. Specific instructions regarding the format, structure, and components of the Strategy will be given by the professor in class. The Church Revitalization Strategy paper should be twelve or more pages, double-spaced.

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%
Mentor Meetings & Reports	35%
Church Revitalization Strategy	35%

Grading Considerations:

1. Assignments will be penalized four points for each day they are late, weekends and holidays included.
2. All work submitted for this class is to be typed. Grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. will be evaluated. Typographical errors and poor proofreading will be penalized. All due work will be submitted via the Blackboard.
3. The student should submit all assigned work to receive a passing grade for the class.

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. **Weekly meeting with mentor**
2. **Book Report due dates:**
 Bill Henard, *Can These Bones Live?* - **Due: Feb. 19**
 Harry L. Reeder, *From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church* - **Due: March 26**
 Gary McIntosh, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level* - **Due: Apr. 16**
3. **Church Revitalization Report, Due: May 14**

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