



EVAN6320 Vital Signs of a Healthy Church - Internet

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

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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 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 department.

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 leading churches to be healthy.
2. **Theological Heritage:** The course will provide a theological basis for understanding church health.
3. **Disciple Making:** In this course, students will learn about the importance of discipleship to church health.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** The course emphasizes the importance interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of church health.
5. **Servant leadership:** The course is designed to provide an understanding of the relationship and practice of servant leadership to church health.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** Through assigned texts and discussion, students will become familiar with the importance spiritual life and character of those individuals to leading healthy churches.
7. **Worship leadership:** The relationship between church health and worship is emphasized in the course.

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.

Student Learning 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.

Course Teaching Methodology

1. On-line Lectures. The lectures of the professor will be a resource material for the course.
2. Discussion. There will be discussions posted on the course Discussion Board on Blackboard. The discussions will be based on the lectures and the assigned reading.
3. Experience. The student will be expected to be involved in diagnosing the health of a church during the term and to share these insights with the class via email and threaded discussion.
4. Conferences. Discussions with the professor is invited and may be accomplished via email or telephone.

Textbooks

Daniel Sanchez and Ebbie Smith. *Growing Healthy Churches: New Directions for Church Growth in the 21st Century.*

Stephen A. Maccia and Haddon Robinson. *Becoming a Healthy Church: Ten Traits of a Vital Ministry.*

Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church.*

Course Requirements:

1. Church Health Analysis

Utilizing the health surveys presented in class, the student will conduct a church health analysis of his or her own church. The analysis will be used to discover strengths and weaknesses regarding the health of the church. A typed, twelve page (minimum), double-spaced report be submitted by the student. An email attachment of the report will be sent to the professor.

2. Report on a Growing, Healthy Church

The student will develop a report dealing with proposals for helping his/her church to become a healthier church. A fifteen page (minimum), double-spaced report will be emailed to the professor. The report will involve a history of the church, a demographic analysis of the church's community, a summary of the church's health analysis, and a strategy for improving the church's health. The student will email the report to the professor.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Note:

- 1) All work is due by 11:59 PM on the due date via email in WordPerfect or Word format.
- 2) All work submitted for this class is to be typed. Grammar will be considered in the grading of all papers.
- 3) Papers will be graded based on 90% content and 10% grammar. (1 Cor. 10:31b)

Evaluation of Grade

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

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
3 Book Reports	30%
Discussion Board	20%
Student's Church Health Analysis	20%
Healthy Church Report	30%

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. Lectures and course material will be posted each week on Monday.
2. Book Report due dates:
Sanchez. *Growing Healthy Churches: New Directions for Church Growth in the 21st Century*. - **Due: Feb. 18**
Maccia and Robinson. *Becoming a Healthy Church: Ten Traits of a Vital Ministry* - **Due: Mar. 18**
Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* - **Due: April 1**
3. Church Health Analysis, **Due: April 22**
4. Church Report, Due: **May 10**

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