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.

Purpose of the Course
The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the dynamics of church growth as they relate to women’s ministry.

Core Value Focus
Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

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.

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.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2013-2014 academic year that Core Value is Doctrinal Integrity.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed
This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. Biblical Exposition: The student will explore biblical teachings about church health and church growth.
2. *Christian Theological Heritage*: The student will explore theological and historical background for building a healthy church.


4. *Interpersonal Skills*: The student will improve interpersonal and ministry skills.

5. *Servant Leadership*: The student will discover how to lead others toward spiritual maturity and growth in the body of Christ.

6. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: The student will develop personal and spiritual maturity as she learns to about the dynamics of church growth.

7. *Worship Leadership*: The student will increase skills for training others for leadership in a healthy church.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to study the basic principles of church growth and their application to women’s ministry.

**Learning Objectives**

By the completion of this course, each student should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Understand basic principles of church growth.
2. Study types of churches and trends in church growth.
3. Assess the health of her own church to develop specific strategies for the growth of her women’s ministry.
4. Apply church growth principles to her women’s ministry program.

**Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.


   This textbook may only be available through a Life Way store or online at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).


   The textbook can be purchased and ordered at any Life Way store or online at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) or from any other book retailers that carry them.
Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study. Topics will include:
1. Introduction and Biblical Basis for Church Growth
2. Types of Churches
3. Breakout Churches
4. Connecting the Next Generation
5. Reaching the Postmodern Woman
6. Transformational Church
7. Future Trends and Strategic Planning
8. Conclusion

Teaching Method. This course will utilize lecture and interactive discovery-learning and will be team-taught. The student should expect different presentation formats to enhance the learning motif.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria
1. Students will attend class as stated in the graduate catalog.
2. Students will participate in class discussion including one separate session for graduate students.
3. Students will read assigned textbooks and provide a written statement of completion.
4. Students will evaluate the health of their own churches using the data presented by Ed Stetzer and Thom Rainer in Transformational Churches. Write a report which includes an assessment of the church’s evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship plus some specific strategies for the growth of your women’s ministry. The report should be ten to fifteen pages, typed double spaced following A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate Turabian, published by University of Chicago Press.
5. Students will complete a take home final examination.

Mail the written statement, critical review, evaluative report, and project to Dr. Rhonda Kelley, N.O.B.T.S., 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 or email it to rkelley@nobts.edu.

Requirements must be received by the end of each semester or the student will receive a course grade of an “F”. Students may request an incomplete in the course in case of emergency. Please see the Graduate catalog for details about the request process.

Course Evaluation
This course will follow the grading system for the Graduate School:

A = 93-100 1/4 = Class Attendance/Class Participation
B = 85-92 1/4 = Textbook blog
C = 77-84 1/4 = Textbook statement
D = 70-76 1/4 = Church Evaluation Report
F = Below 70 1/4 = Take-home Final Examination


Course Policies

The student will be expected to have access to online resources to download teaching and presentation documents in the Seminary’s BlackBoard system.

Students who choose to present assignments via electronic mediums need to present those documents in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format. WordPerfect and PDF files will not be accepted for grade via electronic format.

The absence policy of the Seminary will be strictly enforced. For a 3-hour course, the student may miss no more than 9 hours of instruction. Examinations and case studies will be given and graded on the days announced. The concept of a make-up examination does not exist.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. 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 is expected at all times in the online environment.

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Course Schedule

Session One
   Introductory Week
   Introduction and Biblical Basis for Church Growth
Session Two
   Types of Churches
Session Three
   Breakout Churches
Session Four
   Connecting the Next Generation
Session Five
   Reaching the Postmodern Woman
Session Six
   Transformational Church
Session Seven
   Future Trends and Strategic Planning
Session Eight
   Conclusion
Selected Bibliography


*Growing Churches Magazine* - Lifeway quarterly publication.


