



**EVAN6221 Church Revitalization**  
**Internet Course**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church Ministry Division**  
**Fall Semester 2020**

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*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

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**Purpose of the Course**

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

**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 2020-2021 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

## **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition:* The student will discover passages of Scripture that will address biblical foundations for leadership in the local church or Christian ministry setting .
2. *Theological and historical perspective:* The course will provide a systematic and historical progression of church leadership and ministry as it has evolved to the requirements today.
3. *Effective servant leadership:* The course is designed not only to teach about servant leadership but also to encourage the student to practice this leadership style.
4. *Interpersonal relationships:* The course contains a strong emphasis on interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of leadership and administration.
5. *Disciple making:* In this course, students are encouraged to understand that the ultimate purpose of leadership is transforming.
6. *Worship leadership:* The course does not directly address worship leadership, however the leadership principles discussed will relate to any venue of ministry in the local church.
7. *Spiritual and character formation:* Students are taught that ministry leadership and administration should flow out of a transformational walk with Jesus Christ.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to serve churches effectively through team ministry, the students should:

- Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of key issues germane to effective church revitalization.
- Value leadership skills necessary for effective church revitalization.
- Be able to identify possible causes of plateau and decline of a local church in order to develop a strategy for revitalization of the selected local church.

## **Course 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.

## Required Readings

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

## **Required Texts**

Each student will read the required four textbooks:

(1) *Reclaimed Church: How Churches Grow, Decline, and Experience Revitalization* by Bill Henard; (2) *There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* by Gary McIntosh; and (3) *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches* by Mark Clifton.

## **Course Requirements:**

### **Case Report:**

A major part of this course involves the student writing a report on the church that they are attending. The report should include an analysis of current conditions within the church and its community. The report should include a suggested path toward revitalization of the church based upon the student's research and knowledge gained through the lectures, books and interactions of this course. 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](mailto:lcresearch@nobts.edu) or by calling (504) 816-8820. The final report should be in \*.pdf **AND** either Word or WordPerfect format. The report must be presented in Blackboard by the due date.

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: December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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.

### **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
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<b>Book Reports</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Discussion Board</b> (Due Each Thursday)	<b>20%</b>
<b>Revitalized Church Case Report</b>	<b>50%</b>

Note: All work must be completed and received on due dates 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](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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 (by 12am):**  
*Reclaimed Church: How Churches Grow, Decline, and Experience Revitalization* by Bill Henard? - **Due: Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.**  
*There’s Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* by Gary McIntosh Church – **Due: Friday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.**  
*Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches* by Mark Clifton.- **Due: Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.**
3. Church Revitalization Report **Due: Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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