



**EVAN6221 Church Revitalization (Online)**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church Ministry Division**  
**Fall Semester 2021**

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**Mission Statement**

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

**Course Description**

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.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to serve churches effectively through team ministry, the students, by the end of the course, 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**

This course will feature a variety of teaching/learning methods including lecture, required reading, discussion boards, reports, and a research/reflection project in the context of church revitalization.

## **Textbooks**

Each student will read the required two textbooks:

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

## **Course Requirements/Assignments**

### **1. Quizzes (10%):**

Each week students are expected to view video lectures provided by the professor and complete reading assignments. A five (5) question (multiple choice) quiz for each video lecture and/or reading assignment will post on Blackboard at the start of the week. Students will have until the upcoming Friday at 11:59 pm to complete each quiz.

### **2. Discussion Board Posts (20%):**

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.

### **3. Book Reviews/Analysis (20%)**

Each student will read the required textbooks and submit an integrative analysis **for each book**. Each assignment is to be double-spaced and 4 to 6 pages in length, involving the following components (this is what makes a book review an integrative analysis): (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 21<sup>st</sup> century church revitalization. The integrative analysis must employ formal style according to Turabian, regarding cover page, margins, pagination, footnotes, headings/subheadings, etc. No first person allowed. Please submit as a .pdf.

### **4. Biblical Characteristics of a Church Revitalizer Paper (20%)**

The student will write a 6 to 8 page double-spaced scholarly paper in Turabian format. The paper must provide a detailed biblical sketch of the most critical leadership characteristics for leading church revitalization. This paper is the student's opportunity to argue what they believe are the essential biblical characteristics for a leader in church revitalization. The paper should develop a comprehensive list of essentials and argue for those traits from a theological and functional perspective. In other words, why are these traits essential from a biblical perspective (theological) and why are these traits essential to the function of revitalization (functional perspective)? While these may at times overlap, they are not always the same; however, the function must always be built upon the theological. The biblical perspective always comes first and should be included as the foundational aspect of each characteristic discussed. Please submit as a .pdf.

### **5. Church Revitalization Strategy (30%)**

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. The Church Revitalization Strategy paper should be 10 to 12 pages, double-spaced. Please submit as a .pdf.

The paper must include:

- 1. Introduction:** This must explain the historical background of the church as extensively as necessary to accurately reflect the church's current state. Historical statistics,

leadership structure, programming approaches, and overall culture of the church should be addressed.

**2. Guiding Values:** Provide an accurate biblical theology for church revitalization that serves as the basis for any efforts to bring revitalization to a local church. Be as comprehensive as possible to address the church, governance, mission, and vision.

**3. Strategy:** This will be the most comprehensive section (at least 4 pages of the paper) and should provide a clear pathway for your revitalization strategy. Address every aspect that will be involved in the strategy. Determine a reasonable but urgent timeline and provide details that coincide with the timeline.

**4. Evaluation:** How will you know when you have accomplished the goal? Provide a process of immediate and on-going evaluation. Who? How? When? What tools will you use?

**5. Reflection:** Based on what you have learned through this project, will you seek to execute this strategy? Explain the opportunities that are open to this strategy or the obstacles that contest this strategy and what is your plan to lead the church to this critical point of change?

## Evaluation

Quizzes	10%
Discussion Board	20%
Book Reviews/Analysis	20%
Biblical Characteristics of a Church Revitalizer Paper	20%
Church Revitalization Strategy	30%

### *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 Blackboard. **Please submit work as a .pdf.**
- 3) The student should submit all assigned work to receive a passing grade for the class.

## Technical or Blackboard Issues

The course professor is not responsible for resolving technical or Blackboard issues. If the student experiences difficulties please contact the NOBTS ITC Support Team.

[Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the selfserve.nobts.edu website (access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

[BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System

[ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests

[504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests

[www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website

## Netiquette: appropriate online behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. 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.

**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 and Graduate Catalog for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of “F” will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out” (Prov 10:19).

**Disclaimer**

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, the student will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This independent study proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he reasonably thinks that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the student.

**NOBTS Style Guide**

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

## Course Schedule

Week/Unit	Topic	Readings/Assignments
1 (Aug. 16)	Where Is the Church in the U.S. Today?	Reclaimed Church (RC): pp.7-49
2 (Aug. 23)	Where Is Your Church Today?	RC: pp.53-104
3 (Aug. 30)	Understanding Your Community Context	RC: pp.107-142
4 (Sep. 6)	The Importance of Church Size	RC: pp.143-172
5 (Sep. 13)	The Church Life Cycle	RC: pp.173-210
6 (Sep. 20)	Developing a Vision	<b>Reclaimed Church Book Review (Due Sep. 20)</b>
7 (Sep. 27)	Creating a Sense of Urgency	There's Hope (TH): pp.13-39
<b>Oct. 4-8</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	(TH): pp.41-82
8 (Oct. 11)	Leading Change	(TH): pp.83-115
9 (Oct. 18)	Overcoming Growth Barriers	<b>Biblical Characteristics of a Church Revitalizer Paper (Due Oct. 18)</b>
10 (Oct. 25)	Church Conflict & Revitalization	(TH): pp.117-187
11 (Nov. 1)	Revitalization in Small Rural Churches	<b>There's Hope Book Review (Due Nov. 1)</b>
12 (Nov. 8)	Revitalization via Multisite	
13 (Nov. 15)	Revitalization via Replant	<b>Church Rev. Strategy (Due Nov. 15)</b>
<b>Nov. 22-26</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
14 (Nov. 29-Dec. 1)	Revitalization Today	

**\*\*Schedule may be subject to change.**

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