



EVAN6320 Vital Signs of a Healthy Church - Internet

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Pastoral Ministry Division Spring Semester, 2021

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Mission Statement

NOBTS and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help students define a healthy church, discover biblical qualities of healthy churches, expose them to current research on healthy churches, and introduce them to 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.

Textbooks

Tony Morgan. *Vital Signs: Why Church Health Matters and 14 Ways to Measure It.*

Guy Chevreau. *Vital Signs of a Healthy Church: A Diagnostic.*

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

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.

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.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

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:
 - Tony Morgan. *Vital Signs: Why Church Health Matters and 14 Ways to Measure It*. **Due: Feb. 09**
 - Guy Chevreau. *Vital Signs of a Healthy Church: A Diagnostic*. **Due: Mar. 09**
 - Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* - **Due: April 6**
3. Church Health Analysis, **Due: April 27**
4. Church Report, **Due: May 11**

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