



EVAN6321 Church Revitalization

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:50am
Spring 2023, **Course begins January 17, 2023**
NOLA2U FLEX**

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This course begins on **January 17, 2023**, and, by that date, students should have access to the Canvas shell, where they will find information and instructions about the course. Prior to that time, students should purchase the texts and be ready to participate in the course. The reading schedule is included in this syllabus so that, once students have secured the textbooks, they can begin reading their assignments.

Mission Statement

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

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.

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 lectures, videos, reading assignments, and in-class discussions, revitalization principles for leaders will be addressed, discussed, and analyzed. Principles representing small, medium, and large churches; churches in rural, small towns, medium-sized cities, and metropolitan areas 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 biblical standards and research 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**.

Cheyney, Tom. *Church Revitalization in Rural America*. Orlando, FL: Renovate Publishing Group, 2018.

Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying & Divided Churches*. Scotland, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publication, 2016.

McIntosh, Gary. *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.

Rainer, Thom. *Anatomy of a Revived Church*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2019.

Course Requirements

1. Reading Quizzes: See syllabus for dates

Based on course readings, students can expect five (5) reading quizzes throughout the semester. Each reading quiz contains ten (10) multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, or true-and-false questions. Quizzes expire Forty (40) minutes from start time but are open-book.

2. Biblical Basis Report Due Feb. 2 @ 11:59pm

The student will present a 3 to 5 double-spaced page paper establishing a biblical foundation for church revitalization. Utilizing both the Old and New Testaments, the student will also include one biblical character to exemplify church revitalization.

3. Demographic's Report Due Jan 24th @ 11:59pm (Due to Canvas challenges- due Jan 26th)

The student will present a 2 to 5 double-spaced page paper analyzing the demographics of the church

attending. The student will emphasize unique characteristics, opportunities for growth, and revitalization challenges. Demographic information can be obtained by filling out demographic information at www.namb.net.

4. Church Health Report March 23rd @ 11:59pm

The student will present a 3 to 5 double-spaced page paper analyzing the church's health. The student will rate and explain the following categories on a scale of one (1) to ten (10): Leadership, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry cohesion, fellowship, and friendliness. An explanation of the score rating and ways for category improvement should accompany each entry.

5. Revitalization Report April 20th @ 11:59pm

The student will present a 4 to 6 double-spaced page paper establishing steps for church revitalization. The student must establish an introduction for revitalization, a plan for revitalization, support needed for revitalization, challenges to revitalization, and best method for revitalization. More details forthcoming.

6. Book Reviews Book #1 Due Feb. 16 @ 11:59pm | Book #2 Due April 6th @ 11:59pm

Each student will read and review *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* and *Tempered Resilience*. Each review must include:

- a. a synopsis of major themes of the book,
- b. a critical analysis of strengths and limitations of the book,
- c. and several principles (3-5) the student can derive for church revitalization.
- d. Each review is to be 4-6 pages, double-spaced, employing Turabian.

7. Midterm Exam Opens Mar. 7 - Closes - Mar. 9th @ 11:59pm

A final exam will reflect all readings, PowerPoint, and in-class material covered **midway** throughout the semester. Details about the exam will be discussed as the date nears.

8. Final Exam Opens May 2, 2023 - Closes - May 9th @ 11:59pm

A final exam will reflect all readings, PowerPoint, and in-class material covered throughout the semester. Details about the exam will be discussed as the exam date nears.

Evaluation of Grade

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

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage
1. Reading Quizzes	See Semester Schedule	10%
2. Biblical Basis Report	February 2nd @ 11:59pm	10%
3. Demographic's Report	January 24th @ 11:59pm	5%
4. Church Health Report	March 23rd @ 11:59pm	5%

5. Revitalization Report	April 20th @ 11:59pm	10%
6. Book Review #1	Feb 16th @ 11:59pm	10%
7. Book Review #2	April 6th @ 11:59pm	10%
8. Midterm Exam	Opens March 7, 2023 Closes May 9th @ 11:59pm	20%
9. Final Exam	Opens May 2, 2023 Closes May 9th @ 11:59pm	20%

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. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System – NOBTS.Canvas.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.

Canvas Enrollment: Students will be enrolled in Canvas 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.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Semester Schedule

Dates	Reading	Assignment
Tuesday Jan 17	Introduction/Revitalization: Defined Brian Croft Introduction - Chapter 1	
Thursday Jan 19	Revitalization: Readiness Croft Chapter 2-4	
Tuesday Jan 24	Revitalization: Leadership Croft Chapter 5-7	Demographic's Report/Due @ 11:59pm
Thursday Jan 26	Revitalization: United Croft Chapter 8-9	Reading Quiz #1-Due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Jan 31	Revitalization: History Croft Chapter 10-11	
Thursday Feb 2	Revitalization: Lessons Croft Chapter 12-13	Biblical Basis Report/Due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Feb 7	Anatomy: Introduction Rainer Introduction - Chapter 1	
Thursday Feb 9	Anatomy: Overcoming Rainer Chapter 2-3	Reading Quiz #2/Due @ 11:59pm

Tuesday Feb 14	Anatomy: Toxins Rainer Chapter 4-5	
Thursday Feb 16	Anatomy: Change or Die Rainer Chapter 6-Conclusion	Book Analysis #1 due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Feb 21	MARDI GRAS	
Thursday Feb 23	There's Hope: Introduction McIntosh Chapter 1-3	
Tuesday Feb 28	There's Hope: Assessment McIntosh Chapter 4-6	
Thursday Mar 2	There's Hope: Decisions McIntosh Chapter 7-8	Reading Quiz #3/Due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Mar 7	There's Hope: Resistance McIntosh Chapter 9-11	Midterm Exam Opens
Thursday Mar 9	There's Hope: Breaking Through McIntosh Chapter 12-13	Midterm Exam Closes
Mar 14-16	S P R I N G B R E A K	
Tuesday Mar 21	Rural America: Introduction Cheyney Introduction - Chapter 1	
Thursday Mar 23	Rural America: Vision Cheyney Chapter 2-3	Church Health Report/Due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Mar 28	Rural America: Potential Cheyney Chapter 4-5	
Thursday Mar 30	Rural America: Discipleship Cheyney Chapter 6-7	Reading Quiz #4/Due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Apr 4	Rural America: Resuscitating Cheyney Chapter 8	
Thursday April 6	Rural America: Leadership Cheyney Chapter 9	Book Analysis #2 due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Apr 11	Rural America: Clarity Cheyney Chapter 10	
Thursday Apr 13	Rural America: Reality Cheyney Chapter 11	Reading Quiz #5/Due @ 11:59pm

Tuesday Apr 18	Rural America: Call Cheyney Chapter 12	
Thursday Apr 20	Rural America: Mistakes Cheyney Chapter 13	Revitalization Report/Due @ 11:59pm
Tuesday Apr 25	Rural America: Change Cheyney Chapter 14	
Thursday Apr 27	Rural America: Conclusion Cheyney Chapter 15- Conclusion	
Tuesday May 2		Final Exam Opens
Thursday May 9th		Final Exam Closes

Selected Bibliography

Revitalization, Church Growth, and Church Health

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- Ahlen, J. Timothy, and J. V. Thomas. *One Church, Many Congregations: The Key Church Strategy*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.
- Anderson, Andy. *Effective Methods of Church Growth: Growing the Church by Growing the Sunday School*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985.
- _____. *The Growth Spiral: The Proven Step-By-Step Method for Calculating and Predicting Growth Potential in Your Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.
- Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1992.
- Anthony, Micheal J., and Mick Boersma. *Moving On Moving Forward: A Guide for Pastors in Transition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Arn, Charles. *How to Start a New Service*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- _____. "Multiple Worship Services and Church Growth." *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*, 7:73-104.
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- Arn, Win. *The Pastor's Church Growth Handbook*. Pasadena: Church Growth Press, 1979.
- _____. *The Pastor's Church Growth Handbook*. Vol. II. Pasadena: Church Growth Press, 1982.
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- Arn, Win, and Charles Arn. *Catch the Age Wave: A Handbook for Effective Ministry with Senior Adults*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.
- Avery, William O. *Revitalizing Congregations: Refocusing and Healing Through Transitions*. The Alban Institute,

2002.

Barna, George. *The Frog in the Kettle: What Christians Need to Know about Life in the Year 2000*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.

_____. *User Friendly Churches: What Christians Need to Know about the Churches People Love to Go To*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1991.

_____. *Finding a Church You Can Call Home: The Complete Guide to Making One of the Most Significant Decisions of Your Life*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1992

_____. *Turn-around Churches: How to Overcome Barriers to Growth and Bring New Life to an Established Church*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1993.

_____. *Evangelism That Works: How to Reach Changing Generations with the Unchanging Gospel*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1995.

Bast, Robert L. *Attracting New Members*. Monrovia: Church Growth, Inc., 1988.

Bullard, George W., Jr. *Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2005.

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Buttry, Daniel. *Bring Your Church Back to Life: Beyond Survival Mentality*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1988.

Cahill, Dennis J. *Lifestyle Market Segmentation*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth, 2006.

Callahan, Kennon L. *A New Beginning for Pastors and Congregations: Building an Excellent Match Upon Your Shared Strengths*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Chester, Tim and Steve Timmis. *Total Church: A Radical Reshaping around Gospel and Community*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Cheyney, Tom. *The Church Revitalizer as a Change Agent*. Renovate Publishing Group, 2016.

_____. *Slaying the Dragons of Church Revitalization: Dealing with the Critical Issues that Are Hurting Your Church*. Renovate Publishing Group, 2017.

Cheyney, Tom and Terry Rials. *The Nuts and Bolts of Church Revitalization*. Orlando, FL: Renovate Publishing Group, 2015.

Clapp, Steve, and Cindy Hollenberg Snider. *Creating Quality in Ministry: Insights on How Quality Can Sharpen and Focus Today's Local Church Ministry*. Elgin, Ill.: The Andrew Center, 1995.

Clifton, Mark. *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2016. Cordeiro, Wayne. *Doing Church as a Team*. Ventura: Regal Books, 2001.

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Davis, Andrew M. *Revitalize: Biblical Keys to Helping Your Church Come Alive Again*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2017

