



PMEV8302 Developing a Strategy for Healthy, Evangelistic Church Growth

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Church Ministry Division

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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 seminar is to lead students to develop an understanding of biblical, congregational, and contextual factors in evangelistic church growth, and to develop strategic planning skills in order to implement evangelistic church growth.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of the course the students should be able to:

1. Discover, analyze, and adapt resources for healthy, evangelistic church growth.
2. Identify the theological, philosophical and methodological factors in healthy, evangelistic church growth.
3. Discover, analyze, and interpret data about their communities that could affect the evangelistic growth of their churches.
4. Discover, analyze, and interpret data about their church that could affect the evangelistic growth of their church or ministry context.
5. Prepare a detailed strategy for healthy, evangelistic church growth for the congregation or ministry they presently serve.
6. Discover insights about people without Christ through personal interviews.

Course Teaching Methodology

1. Lectures. Brief lectures from the professor will play a role in the seminar.
2. Research. Students will engage in research under the direction of the professor.
3. Presentations. Students will make presentations on their research and readings to the seminar. Presentations from guest lecturers and video presentations may be utilized in the seminar.

4. Discussion. Full discussions of the issues raised by the lectures, research, and presentations will be conducted.

Required Textbooks

Medders, J.A. and Doug Logan Jr. *The Soul-Winning Church: Six Keys to Fostering a Genuine Evangelistic Culture*. Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company, 2024.

Price, Wm. Craig, gen. ed. *Engage: Tools for Contemporary Evangelism*. Birmingham, AL: Iron Stream Media, 2019.

Other Recommended Books

Included in the Selected Bibliography

Course Requirements

Communication for the seminar will be shared via Announcements in Canvas. Seminar assignments will be submitted in the Canvas course shell. All assignments are due by Dec. 6 at 11:59 pm, except for assignment # 6.

1. Each student will complete 3 interviews with people the student believes are not Christians or have been out of church for at least 10 years. After the interview the student is to write a thoughtful reflection of the experience. You may want to include selected significant quotes, a summary paragraph on each interview, what you learned about people, what you discovered about yourself or what you need to learn.

Interview Guide

The student should request time from the person in order to interview them for a class assignment with the objective being to simply learn how people see religious things. The purpose is not to convert the person or even share the gospel message. The purpose is to learn what people are thinking about religious matters.

Sample request: "I am doing a class project and need your help. My assignment is to learn how people see religious things. Will you take a few minutes to help me?" Let the person know that his/her name will not be included in any manner. You can interview people you know, business people, people in stores, etc. Do not interview people that you believe to be intoxicated. Also, do not interview family members for this assignment.

Take the approach of a student researching, not a minister evangelizing. Please do not try to convince the person or to debate with the person; simply record his/her answers on a notepad. If the person asks your opinion, gracefully decline (because you do not want to influence the person's answer). *After* the interview, if the person asks you to tell him/her your beliefs, listen to the Holy Spirit and 1) either set another time to get together for that purpose or 2) go ahead and share. THE POINT: if the person feels you are turning a conversation into a witnessing opportunity, you will not get his/her true feelings and thoughts.

The following list represents questions the student should ask...

1. To you, what is God like? Describe God.
If they don't believe in God, ask ...
To you, what is important in life? (then skip to question 4)
2. How would you describe your religious background and church involvement previously, if any?
3. What message do you think the church is trying to communicate?

4. What do you think it takes to be straightened out with God?
5. Describe what the name Jesus Christ means to you.

2. Each student will conduct three witnessing encounters with lost people. Following the encounter, a one-page description of the experience will be reported. Include how you began the witnessing conversation, the evangelistic presentation employed and the response and outcome of the encounter. Use a separate page for each report.

3. Each student will read and write reviews of the two required textbooks and one additional book from other recommended books included in the Selected Bibliography. Students are to email Dr. Nix at pnix@nobts.edu with his first choice, second choice, and third choice of books from the other recommended books list. The professor will make assignments in the order of the emails received. Once the selection is approved by the professor, the student may begin reading his/her book. Each student will assist in leading discussion on the books for the seminar.

Students should be prepared to discuss their book reviews in class. The reviews must include: (1) Title page (2) A synopsis of the major/significant messages of the book; (3) A critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses/limitations of the messages of the book; (4) An evaluation of the degree to which the author accomplishes the stated purpose; and (5) Three to five principles you have learned from this work that you can apply in your current ministry context. Each review is to be 4-6 pages, typed, double-spaced, and employing Turabian.

4. Each student will complete an instrument designed to assess the evangelistic growth of their church over the last 5 years and the overall health of their church. The student will record the results of the instrument and be prepared to discuss some of the findings during the seminar sessions.

5. Each student will prepare a “Healthy Evangelistic Church Growth” paper, assimilating material from relevant biblical passages with specific emphasis on the book of Acts. The paper should address at least the following: (1) what is a church, (2) what is a disciple, (3) what is legitimate evangelism, (4) what is the relationship between making disciples and the carrying out of evangelism, and (5) what is success in church? The paper should be at least 7, typed, double-spaced pages employing the most recent version of Turabian. The paper will be graded on content and style. Each student should be prepared to present various components of his/her paper in class.

6. Following the seminar, each student will develop a comprehensive, healthy, evangelistic church growth strategy for his/her church that is informed by the material from the seminar. The student should think of the strategy development in terms of two time periods: (1) the first six-months, and (2) a time period not longer than two years. The primary emphasis of the paper should be on the first six months. The paper should be between 12 and 15 typed, double-spaced pages. The paper will be graded on content and layout/presentation of the materials. More information about the strategy will be provided in class. The paper is due in Canvas on **January 22, 2027**.

Course Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on both the papers submitted and the seminar interactions. The papers will be evaluated on logic, flow, style, form, grammar, structure and quality of ideas presented.

Course Schedule

This schedule serves only as a general guide and is subject to change as the professor discerns what would be most beneficial in view of the needs of the students and the objectives of the course. **Students are required to attend all class sessions.**

Monday, December 7	1:00 pm – 9:00 pm Central Time
Tuesday, December 8	8:00 am – 4 pm Central Time
Wednesday, December 9	8:00 am – 4 pm Central Time

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 seminar is to be typed. Grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, as well as form and style will be evaluated. Typographical errors and poor proofreading will be penalized. All assignments will be submitted in Canvas.
- 3) The student should submit all assigned work to receive a passing grade for the seminar.

Technical Assistance

Here is the contact information for the ITC support team, who are to help you with your NOBTS/LC technical questions/issues/support requests:

1. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
2. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
3. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System, Canvas.nobts.edu site. / nobts.instructure.com.
4. VCHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with NOBTS Microsoft Teams (Flex & Live classes)
5. 504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon, Tues & Thurs 7:30am-7:00pm, Wed 7:30am-6:00pm & Fri 7:30-12:00pm Central Time)
6. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

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.

Selected Bibliography

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.

Green, Michael. *Evangelism through the Local Church: A Comprehensive Guide to All Aspects of Evangelism*. Comprehensive ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2023.

Hawkins, O. S. and Matt Queen, *The Gospel Invitation: Why Publicly Inviting People to Receive Christ Still Matters*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2023.

Johnston, Thomas P., ed. *A History of Evangelism in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2021.

_____, ed. *Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest: Voices and Views from the Southern Baptist Professors of Evangelism Fellowship*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2011.

Mancini, Will and Cory Hartman. *Future Church: Seven Laws of Real Church Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020.

McGavran, McGavran. *Bridges of God: A Study in the Strategy of Missions*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2005.

McIntosh, Gary L. *Growing God's Church: How People Are Actually Coming to Faith Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016.

McIntosh, Gary L. *One Size Doesn't Fit All: Bringing Out the Best in Any Size Church*. Ada; MI: Revell, 1999.

McIntosh, Gary L. and Charles Arn. *What Every Pastor Should Know: 101 Indispensable Rules of Thumb for Leading Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013.

Medders, J.A. and Doug Logan Jr. *The Soul-Winning Church: Six Keys to Fostering a Genuine Evangelistic Culture*. Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company, 2024.

Mittelberg, Mark. *Becoming a Contagious Church: Increasing Your Church's Evangelistic Temperature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Moon, W. Jay and W. Bud Simon. *Effective Intercultural Evangelism: Good News in a Diverse World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2021.

Moss, Brian. *The D.R.E.A.M. Church: Five Proven Strategies for Growing a Healthy, Disciplemaking Church*. Independently Published, 2023.

Price, Wm. Craig, gen. ed. *Engage: Tools for Contemporary Evangelism*. Birmingham, AL: Iron Stream Media, 2019.

Queen, Matt. *Mobilize to Evangelize: The Pastor and Effective Congregational Evangelism*. Fort Worth, TX: Seminary Hill Press, 2018.

Roesel, Charles. *It's a God Thing: The Powerful Results of Ministry Evangelism*. Abbotsford, WI: ANEKO Press, 2013.

Searcy, Nelson with Jennifer Dykes Henderson. *Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully Engaged Members of Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2017.

Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.