This course provides an introduction and systematic overview of the process of church planting and consequent congregational development and nurture. Included are biblical and theological rationales for church planting as an evangelistic strategy from a missiological and contextually sensitive perspective as well as an introduction to specific tools, methods, and resources needed for the effective development of new congregations.

Professor of Record

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Associate Instructor

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Course Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following outcomes:

Students should be able to present a biblical and missiological rationale for church planting as a viable methodology for evangelism and mission in the North American context.
Students should complete individual assessments in terms of their personality, spiritual gifts, talents, motivation, leadership style and other personal factors in light of church planting requirements and evaluate their readiness and capacity to engage in church planting work.

Students should be able to clearly identify the major challenges and incentives for church planting and the impact these have upon the church planter.

Students should be able to develop a comprehensive church planting strategy that would address the needs of a new congregation through its various phases of inception and growth that should:

1. Develop a contextual analysis of a possible church planting site and identify what key church planting models and strategies could be optimally utilized.
2. Prepare a feasibility study of the proposed church plant identifying key factors and challenges including staffing, budget, and eliciting the initial core group.
3. Formulate a vision and mission statement for the new congregation including core values and style elements.
4. Create an intentional systematic process of congregational growth and development toward maturity.
5. Conceive an initial strategic plan for a congregational launch and subsequent church building activities for the first six months.

**Course Readings**

The following are the required readings for the course. Students will be responsible for reading them and being familiar with their contents. A final statement of completion should be submitted at the end of the course to verify amount of reading completed.


Extra Credit Reading

Students can receive extra credit by completing additional reading from the Bibliography listed below. Students can earn up to 10 extra points. For every 100 pages of extra reading, students can earn 2 points with a limit of 10 points for 500 pages. Students must submit their extra credit reading with their required reading report by identifying the books or articles read as well as the number of pages as well as a one page summary for each extra work read.

Course Schedule

Weekend One (February 19-20)

- Church Planting: Reasons and Rationales
- Missiological DNA of the Church Plant
- Models of Church Planting
- The Anatomy of a Church Planter

Weekend Two (March 19-20)

- Vision and Substance: The Planning Process
- Doing Contextual Analysis
- Deciding Where to Birth a Church!
- Building the Ministry Team
- Gestation: Steps to the Launch

Weekend Three (April 23-24)

- Launching a Church
- Challenges for the Newborn Congregation
- Healthy Growth

Attendance:

Students are required to attend all sessions of the course. Absenteeism will result in a loss of grade points. If for reason of illness or family death or emergency, please contact Dr. Klipowicz regarding these events to determine appropriate make-up activities. For additional information concerning attendance, consult the Student Handbook requirements and guidelines.

Course Assignments

The following are required assignments that should be submitted before May 1, 2010. See detailed explanation of assignments below in the syllabus.

1. Personal Assessment Exercise (50 points)
2. Church Planter Interview Teams (75 points)
3. Church Planting Strategic Plan or Analysis (150 points)
4. Statement of completed required readings (25 points) and Extra Credit (up to 10 points)

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>270 – 300</td>
<td>A- to A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>240 – 269</td>
<td>B- to B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210 – 239</td>
<td>C- to C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 – 209</td>
<td>D- to D+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Assignments

All class work and your reading report must be submitted by May 1, 2010.

Assignment One: Personal Assessment as Church Planter

Self-awareness is a critical part of leadership, especially being a leader of a church plant. Church planting requires a number of special competencies and qualities. This assignment provides you with the opportunity to take an honest and hard look at yourself in light of a number of categories needed for church planting. Hopefully this self-appraisal will provide you with needed insight into your ability to be a part of a church plant in some capacity.

The Personal Assessment Exercise will require the following steps:

1. Complete the Church Planter Profile exercise for yourself in the Church Planter’s Toolkit (Section 2, pages 9-15).
2. Ask two honest and trustworthy people who know you well to complete the same profile with you in mind. Make an appointment to meet with them (separately or together) to discuss your answers as compared with their appraisals. Where do they agree? Where do they differ? Why?
3. Reflect on these two steps and write up a report (5-6 pages) to submit that summarizes your personal findings regarding your assessment and how you potentially are suited for church planting work.

This assignment is worth 50 points. An excellent project will provide in depth and complete reflection in a candid manner on your qualifications to participate in a church plant based upon your own self-appraisal and your conversations with two other key people providing you feedback.

Assignment Two: Church Planting Interview Teams
The experience of church planting is a unique story of faith, frustration and varying degrees of fruition that indelibly mark the life of the pioneer minister. Wisdom gained from success and failures can provide a rich harvest of insight regarding the church planting quest.

This assignment requires that you work collaboratively with 2 or 3 other students as a research team. Each team member will be responsible for interviewing two church planters to glean perspectives from their ministries into the challenges, frustrations, and convictions of pioneering a new congregation. The interviews can be in person or over the telephone but should be done person to person. Interview data should be recorded and collected for further analysis and reflection. Your subjects should have planted at least one church. If they are currently planting a church, they should have been in the process for at least 1 year.

Team members will work together to develop an appropriate interviewing instrument to be used by each team member and a way to collect, analyze, and discuss the team data.

Steps to Take:

1. Identify two or three fellow students to work with as a team.
2. Develop a questionnaire to use in the interview process. The questionnaire should investigate the following:
   - Background information regarding the church planter that will be helpful in your analysis
   - Why did this person plant a church? Why did this person feel called or qualified to do it?
   - What were the greatest challenges the church planter faced? How did he or she respond? Where were the outcomes? How did they get encouragement?
   - What special ways did they see God’s providence at work in the planting process? How did the church planting process influence the planter spiritually?
   - What did the planter learn of him or herself as a result of this venture?
   - What would the planter do differently if things could be done over again?
   - Other issues?
3. Team members should contact two church planters and arrange for the interviews. Let the subjects know the data will be confidential.
4. Data of interviews should be recorded and transcribed in a text format to share with your team members.
5. The team should analyze the data together by looking for themes and patterns in the responses that emerge from the interviews. Compare and contrast the experiences of the church planters.
6. Each team should complete an 8-10 page paper that describes the research process, the interview questionnaire, and presents a final discussion of your findings around the theme, *The Inner World of the Church Planter*.

*Each team will submit only one report and all members will receive the same class grade. Each team should be ready to present a short summary of findings by the final class weekend.*

The grade for the project will reflect the quality of the research questionnaire developed, the strength of the data gathered and the insight and observations resulting from group analysis of the data. A total of 75 points can be earned per student.

**Assignment Three: Strategic Plan for or an Analysis of Church Planting**

Church planters need to develop clear plans as a critical part of the church planting process. This assignment will provide an opportunity for students planning to launch a church or who are in the initial stages of a church launch to develop a comprehensive overview of the strategic plan that will address the needs of a new congregation through its various phases of inception and growth. For students who do not intend to plant a church, they can use this exercise to do an intentional and sequential analysis of a current church plant. This assignment is worth up to 150 points.

**Strategic Plan**

At the conclusion of the course, students should submit a completed strategic plan for a proposed church plant (12-15 pages) that identifies the following core elements of the plan. The plan should provide support from the courses required and extra credit readings to justify elements of the plan.

1. Formulate a rationale for your strategic plan that incorporates a biblical, theological, and missiological rationale for church planting.
2. Develop a contextual analysis of a possible church planting site and identify what key church planting models and strategies could be optimally utilized.
3. Prepare a feasibility study of the proposed church plant identifying key factors and challenges including staffing, budget, and eliciting the initial core group.
4. Formulate a vision and mission statement for the new congregation including core values and style elements.
5. Create an intentional systematic process of congregational growth and development toward maturity.
6. Conceive an initial strategic plan for a congregational launch and outline subsequent church building activities for the first six months.

**Church Plant Analysis**

Students who choose to do an analysis of a current church plant (12 – 15 pages) should research the above information from sources at the church plant. The analysis should not
only record the salient history and features of the church plant, but provide an **evaluation** commentary of the church plant that incorporates insights from required and additional course readings with suggested ways the plant could have been more effectively led and managed.

**Bibliography**

**Websites**

www.churchplanting.net

This is an extensive site provided by the Southern Baptists Board of Home missions and provides significant resources that can be downloaded for free

*Omega Course: Church Planter Training Curriculum* (5 volumes, on-line).

[http://www.alliancescp.org/resources/omegacourse.html](http://www.alliancescp.org/resources/omegacourse.html).

**Books**

Addison, Steven. *Movements that Change the World.*


Towns, Elmer. *Getting a Church Started.* Church Growth Institute, Box 4404, Lynchburg, VA 24502, 1985


He is editor of the Church Growth Network newsletter and the Journal of the American Society for Church Growth. Elmer Towns (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) is cofounder with Jerry Falwell of Liberty University, where he currently serves as vice president and dean of the school of religion. He is an author and editor of popular and scholarly works, a seminar lecturer, and the creator of over twenty resource packets for leadership education. Gailyn Van Rheenen (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is the facilitator of Church Planting and Renewal at Mission Alive (www.missionalive.org), adjunct professor of missions at Abilene Christian University, and former missionary to East Africa. His website is www.missiology.org. Product details.