



**EVAN6221 Church Revitalization**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Pastoral Ministries Division**  
**Fall Semester 2019 (Tues, Thurs 8:30 AM - 9:20 AM)**

Professor's Name: Bo Rice, Ph.D.

Title: Dean of Graduate Studies

Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Preaching

Office: Graduate Dean's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Frost Bldg.

Phone: (504) 282-4455 x3327

Email: [brice@nobts.edu](mailto:brice@nobts.edu)

Twitter: @drborice

Teaching Assistant: Derek Kitterlin [derekkitterlin@yahoo.com](mailto:derekkitterlin@yahoo.com)

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**We are here not merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.**

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Spiritual Vitality**.

## Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The Curriculum Competencies to be addressed include Disciple Making and Servant Leadership.

## 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 Objectives

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, dialogue, required reading, mentor discussions, testimonies, reports, research/reflection project and personal evangelistic efforts in the context of church revitalization.

## Textbooks

Each student will read the required four textbooks:

(1) *Can These Bones Live: A Practical Guide to Church Revitalization* by Bill Henard; (2) *There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* by Gary McIntosh; and (3) *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches* by Mark Clifton.

## Assignments

1. Each student will read the required textbooks and submit an integrative analysis for each book. The assignment is to be double-spaced and four to five pages in length, involving the following components: (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.

2. 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. Specific instructions regarding the format, structure, and components of the Strategy will be given by the professor in class and through Blackboard. The Church Revitalization Strategy paper should be ten to twelve pages, double-spaced.

3. A Final Exam (take-home) will be submitted by Dec. 10 at 11:59pm cst.

## Evaluation

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Integrative Analyses of Required Textbooks | 30% |
| Church Revitalization Strategy             | 35% |
| Final Exam                                 | 20% |
| Attendance and Participation               | 15% |

### *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 work will be submitted via Blackboard at 11:59PM on the due date.**
- 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.

### **In Case Of A Declared Campus Evacuation**

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu) within four days of evacuation.

## Course Schedule

| Week                | Topic                                    | Assignments  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 1 (Aug. 20 and 22)  | Where Is the Church in the U.S. Today?   |  |
| 2 (Aug. 27 and 29)  | Where Is Your Church Today?              | See the link to the Google Form for your Church Demographic Info |
| 3 (Sep. 3 and 5)    | Understanding Your Community Context     |  |
| 4 (Sep. 10 and 12)  | The Importance of Church Size            | <i>Can These Bones Live? (9/12)</i>                              |
| 5 (Sep. 17 and 19)  | The Church Life Cycle                    |  |
| 6 (Sep. 24 and 26)  | Developing a Vision - Your Options       |  |
| 7 (Oct. 1 and 3)    | Creating a Sense of Urgency              | <i>There's Hope for Your Church (10/3)</i>                       |
| 8 (Oct. 8 and 10)   | Leading Change                           |  |
| <b>(Oct. 14-18)</b> | <b>Fall Break</b>                        |  |
| 9 (Oct. 22 and 24)  | Overcoming Growth Barriers               |  |
| 10 (Oct. 29 and 31) | Church Conflict & Revitalization         | <i>Reclaiming Glory (10/31)</i>                                  |
| 11 (Nov. 5 and 7)   | Revitalization in Small Rural Churches   |  |
| 12 (Nov. 12 and 14) | Revitalization via Multisites/Relocation |  |
| 13 (Nov. 19 and 21) | Revitalization Strategy Discussion       |  |
| <b>(Nov. 25-29)</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>                |  |
| 14 (Dec. 3 and 5)   | Revitalization and Planting              | <b>Revitalization Strategy (12/5)</b>                            |
| 15 (Dec. 10)        | <b>Final</b>                             | <b>Final Exam Due 12/10 by 11:59pm cst</b>                       |

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

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