



## **PATH8305 Contemporary Models for Church Revitalization**

Professional Doctoral Seminar

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Spring Semester: April 20-22, 2026

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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 explore contemporary models for church revitalization. Seminar participants will identify distinct characteristics of various contemporary church revitalization models giving special attention to strengths and limitations of each selected model. Seminar components will include research, dialogue, evaluation, and applications. Implications will be drawn for strategic planning for church leaders seeking to employ contemporary models of church revitalization.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Formulate essential biblical principles for church revitalization.
2. Identify various contemporary models for church revitalization.
3. Develop an understanding of strengths and limitation of existing contemporary models of church revitalization.
4. Value strategy development in church revitalization.
5. Increase and implement strategic planning skills for various church revitalization models.

## **Required Textbooks**

Malphurs, Aubrey. *A New Kind of Church: Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st Century* (ISBN-13) 978-0801091896

Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying & Divided Churches*. (ISBN-13) 978-1781917664

## **Seminar Requirements and Assignments**

### ***Before the Seminar:***

- 1. Book Critique 1:** Students will read *A New Kind of Church: Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st Century* by Malphurs and write a 2-paragraph reaction to each chapter. Notice that this is to be a reaction and not a summary. The focus should be on the presence of practical application of the book to the student's particular place of ministry. This assignment may be done in an informal manner. Turabian 9 style is not required, and the student may use first person. Instead of footnotes, quotations may be referenced with parenthetical notes (ex. Malphurs, 8). The assignment will be due on April 19, and is to be posted on Canvas.
- 2. Book Critique 2:** Students will read *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying & Divided Churches* by Croft and write a 2-paragraph reaction to each chapter. Notice that this is to be a reaction and not a summary. The focus should be on the presence of practical application of the book to the student's particular place of ministry. This assignment may be done in an informal manner. Turabian 9 style is not required, and the student may use first person. Instead of footnotes, quotations may be referenced with parenthetical notes (ex. Croft, 8). The assignment will be due on April 19, and is to be posted on Canvas.
- 3.** Students will complete a **Research Project** involving a state convention's strategy for church revitalization. Each student will select a state convention to research from the following list: the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the Alabama Baptist Convention, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, the Florida Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Georgia Baptist Convention. Each student will email the professors with their first and second choice. The professors will make assignments based in the order of emails received. If a student desires to research a state convention that is not on the approved list, the student is to email the professors with a request to approve his or her choice.

Each student will include the following components in his or her Research Project for the selected state convention: a detailed description of church revitalization strategy/strategies, an explanation of church revitalization models advocated by the state convention, and an evaluation of church revitalization strategy/strategies by highlighting

strengths and limitations of church revitalization strategy/strategies. The Research Project is to employ formal style according to Turabian regarding cover page, margins etc. Instead of footnotes, quotations may be referenced with parenthetical notes. The assignment is to be single-spaced (at least three pages), a space between each single-spaced paragraphs, and paragraph indentations. The assignment is due on April 19, and is to be posted on Canvas.

### ***During the Seminar***

**Seminar Presentations:** Each seminar participant will be involved in seminar presentations and discussions involving all three Pre-seminar assignments.

**Seminar Participation:** Seminar participants are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar.

### ***After the Seminar:***

Each student will prepare a **Church Revitalization Proposal** for his or her ministry context. The Church Revitalization Proposal must draw upon seminar textbooks, class discussions, and research. Specific instructions regarding the format, structure, and components of the Church Revitalization Proposal will be given by the professors prior to the end of the seminar. The assignment will be due May 11, 2026, and is to be posted on Canvas.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Book Critique 1	25%
Book Critique 2	25%
Research Project	25%
Church Revitalization Proposal	25%

**Learning Management System (CANVAS):** You will be enrolled in the Canvas class. Preseminar and Post-seminar assignments should be uploaded on or before the assigned due date. Course schedule, documents, and other presentations will be shared on Canvas by the professors.

### **Late Assignments:**

Assignments turned in past the date and time due will incur a late penalty of 5 points, per day, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week past the date due without permission from the professor. Assignments must be properly submitted in Canvas.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff)  
[Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](mailto:VideoConferencingHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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 [chilton@nobts.edu](mailto:chilton@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