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.

Course Description
The purpose of this seminar is to teach students to analyze churches in contemporary, blended, and traditional settings and their utilization of church growth principles to discover strategies for achieving evangelistic church growth.

Core Values
The course will emphasize the seminary’s current core value focus assigned annually by the Administrative Council. This year’s core value focus is Spiritual Vitality.

Curriculum Competencies
The Seminary has seven key competencies in its program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Discipleship Making.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. To explore the application of church health/growth principles in actual church settings.
2. To synthesize dynamics of churches in various settings and propose strategic plans for strengthening the healthy evangelistic growth of churches.
3. To develop an action plan applying church healthy evangelistic growth principles in the student’s ministry context.

Course Methodology
Lectures: Lectures by the professor related to healthy, evangelistic churches will be part of the resource material for the course.
Discussion: Students are expected to be involved in the seminar discussions based on questions raised in the assigned reading, case studies, and assigned projects.
Research: Students will be expected develop a case study of a healthy, evangelistic church assigned by the professor.
Application: Students will apply the principles learned in the course to a specific problem in their church.

**Pre-Seminar Requirements**

A. Each student will read the 3 required textbooks: *Bridges of God: A Study in the Strategy of Missions* by Donald McGavran; *The Ten Most Influential Churches of the Past Century: And How They Impact You Today* by Elmer Towns; *How to Break Growth Barriers: Revise Your Role, Release Your People, and Capture Overlooked Opportunities for Your Church* by Carl George and Warren Bird.

B. Each student will select an additional book from the following list: *Transformational Church: Creating a New Scorecard for Churches* by Ed Stetzer and Thom Rainer; *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever: From Pentecost to the Present* by Elmer Towns; *The Unstuck Church: Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health* by Tony Morgan; *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin; *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples* by Thom Rainer; *When God Builds a Church: 10 Principles for Growing a Dynamic Church* by Bob Russell; *Church Growth Flywheel: 5 Practical Systems to Drive Growth in Your Church* by Rich Birch and Carl George. The student will email the professor his/her book choice for approval.

C. Each student will prepare a six page, double-spaced review per each of the three required textbooks and one additional book from the provided list. The critical book review should include a statement of the author’s purpose(s), a synopsis of the content (message) of the book, and a critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the book. These reviews (with cover sheet) should be in the most recent Turabian form (no footnotes necessary). Students should be prepared to discuss each assigned book. **The book reviews are due on the first day of the seminar and should be posted on Blackboard.**

**Post-Seminar Assignments**

A. In consultation with the professor, students will develop a case study on a church that has experienced significant healthy evangelistic growth. This church does not have to be a Southern Baptist Church. However, the church must meet the criteria agreed upon in the seminar. Students should study issues including, but not limited to:
1) The role of the senior pastor in the overall effort
2) Growth barriers
3) Developing priorities related to a strategic plan for church growth
4) The process used to determine mission, vision statements, goals, and actions.
5) Staff needs and responsibilities
6) Sunday School or small group organization
7) Outreach efforts
8) Assimilation approaches
B. The student will complete a paper on the student’s church. Utilizing the materials presented and discussed in class, students will develop a healthy evangelistic growth plan for their church. The format for these two reports will be explained in the seminar.

These two reports are due by December 1, 2019 and should be posted on Blackboard.

Course Evaluation

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

ACTIVITIES PERCENTAGE

- Book Reports 40%
- Class Discussion 10%
- Healthy Evangelistic Church Report 25%
- Healthy Evangelistic Growth Plan for Student’s Church 25%
Selected Bibliography

Church Growth Books


Church Growth: Journal Articles


_______. "Reply to Iannaccone: Is There a Method to This Madness?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 35, no. 3 (September 1996): 217-22.


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Church Growth: Unpublished Reports, Dissertations, and Other Resources


Kunz, Rainer A. "The Relationship between the Leadership Styles of Senior Pastors, Job Satisfaction, and Church Growth." Ed.D. diss., Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, 1993.


**Church Health: Books**


**Church Health: Periodicals**

Burrage, Ralph. “How Healthy Is Your Church?” *Proclaimer* 4, no.7 (July 2002), 3.


Neighbor, Ralph W. “It’s the Structure, Period.” *Leadership* XVIII, no. 3 (Summer 1997): 36-7.


