

**Hope School of Ministry**

Course Instruction Plan

**U2-221 Organic Church Growth:** Facilitating Urban Church Planting Movements (I)

*Tuesdays*: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., January 31 - March 21, 2006

*Credit Hours*: Two credits

*Department*: Urban Mission

**Instructors:** **Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis**

The Hope School of Ministry

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**Course Description and Objectives**

In this first section of a two session course we will consider the factors and forces connected to remarkable phenomenon of church planting movements taking place throughout the world today. At a time when definitions of the Church have become more and more loose and individualized, we will analyze all church plant and growth theories as they relate to the Nicene marks of the Church in the world. Using these marks as representative of a legitimate biblical view of the church, we will then discuss and investigate the connection between church planting and world evangelization, growth, and leadership development. In our first session we will focus upon the various underlying principles which contribute to the explosive multiplication of churches in places like India, Western Europe, and China, and discuss the possibility of of similar revival, renewal, and reproduction of the Church among the poor in American cities. Our aim will be to isolate the critical dimensions of spiritual vitality which God might use to ignite explosive, dynamic, and reproducing movements around the world, and here at home.

As a result of taking this course, each student should be able to:

1. Help create a definition of church planting movements that takes into account both the biblical materials on the church as well as the latest research on such movements around the world today
2. Understand the Nicene marks of the Church, and be able to use these marks as measuring rod for assessing the validity of movements around the world
3. Isolate the main factors in American spirituality that make rapid multiplication of churches in American cities difficult
4. Identify the main principles and dimensions underlying rapidly growing church planting movements
5. Memorize selected texts on the nature of church growth and multiplication
6. Critically engage some of the latest notions of church and weigh them against the biblical, orthodox understanding of spirituality and body life
7. Outline what you consider to be the most significant elements of any successful, viable, and sustainable church planting movement among the unreached urban poor in the city

**Books and Materials**

1. Bible (for the purposes of this course, your Bible should be a translation (ex. NIV, NASB, RSV, KJV, NKJV, etc), and not a paraphrase (ex. The Living Bible, The Message).
2. Barna, George. *Revolution*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2005.
3. Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements.* Midlothian, VA: WIGTake Resources, 2004.
4. Kreider, Larry. *House Church Networks.* Ephrata, PA: House to House Publications, 2001.
5. Mull, Marlin. *A Biblical Church Planting Manual from the Book of Acts.* Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003.
6. Paper and pen for taking notes and completing in-class assignments.

**Course Requirements**

*Summary of Grade Categories and Weights – 2 Credit Hours* (333 points total)

1) Attendance & Class Participation 5%

3) Required Readings and Precis 10%

4) Scripture Memory 15%

5) Exegetical Project 20%

6) Ministry Project 15%

7) Quizzes 15%

8) Final Exam 20%

***Total Percentage Points Possible 100***

*Grade Requirements*

**Attendance and Class Participation**

Attendance at each class session is a course requirement. Absences will affect your grade. If an absence cannot be avoided, please let the Instructor know in advance. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to find out the assignments you missed, and to talk with the Instructor about turning in late work. Much of the learning associated with this course takes place through discussion, therefore, your active involvement will be sought and expected in every class session.

**Required Reading and Precis Assignment**

All students are required to purchase, read, and reflect upon the textbook(s) for this course. We will ask you to read each required textbook and write a precis of its main point, as you see it. You will need to summarize each text’s major theme and argument, and then give as clearly and concisely as possible your evaluation of it. *Your work for this assignment will differ depending on how many credits you hope to receive from this workshop.* Please see page 10 for details.

**Memory Verses**

The memorized Word is a central priority for your life and ministry as a believer and leader in the Church of Jesus Christ. There are relatively few verses, but they are significant in their content. Though the Scripture memory assignments will be given throughout the course, all Scripture will have to be recited (orally or in writing) as a part of your final exam. (Please note: you will are only allowed the equivalent of *one mistake per verse* for *full credit.* Additionally, you are also allowed the equivalent of *two mistakes per verse* for one-half credit. If you receive more errors than those allowed here, you receive *no credit for this assignment.* You must grade your own verses and record your credit amount in order to receive credit for this assignment; we will not grade your memorization assignment).

**Exegetical Project**

The Scriptures are God’s potent instrument to equip the man or woman of God for every work of ministry he calls them to (2 Tim. 3.16-17). In order to complete the requirements for this course you must select a passage and do an inductive Bible study (i.e., an exegetical study) upon it. The study will have to be 5 pages in length (double-spaced, typed or neatly hand written) for two credits, or 8 pages in length (double-spaced, typed or neatly hand written) for three credits, and should deal with one of the critical themes covered in this course. Our desire and hope is that you will be deeply convinced of the Scripture’s ability to change and practically affect your life, and the lives of those to whom you minister. As you go through the course, be open to finding an extended passage (roughly 4-9 verses) on a subject you would like to study more intensely. *Please see page 4 of this syllabus for credit details, and pages 7-8 for an outline of this project assignment.*

**Ministry Project**

Our expectation is that all students will apply their learning practically in their lives and in their ministry responsibilities. The student will be responsible for developing a ministry project that combines principles learned with practical ministry. We will discuss the details of this project in the introductory session of the class. *The details of the project are listed on page 9 of this syllabus.*

**Quizzes**

You will take five quizzes over the materials in this course. Each quiz will cover only the materials covered during the lecture/outline section of the *previous week’s class session.* As a rule, please plan on taking the quizzes immediately upon coming to class, as the instructor provides them for testing. In the event you have legitimate excuses, you will also be able to make up quizzes, with the permission of the instructor.

**Take Home Final Exam**

On the last day of class you will receive a final exam that you will be able to work on at home. *Pay close attention to the instructions for the exam.* You will be asked questions that helps you reflect on what you have learned in the course and how it affects the way you think about or practice ministry. Please review your quizzes and class notes to prepare for this exam. *The final exam will also include questions taken from materials covered on the last day of the class.*

**Grading**

The following grades will be given at the end of the session, and placed on each student’s record:

“**A**” -- Superior work

“**B**” -- Excellent work

“**C**” -- Satisfactory work

“**D**” -- Passing work

“**F**” -- Unsatisfactory work

“**I**” -- Incomplete

Letter grades with appropriate pluses and minuses will be given for each final grade, and grade points for your grade will be factored into your overall grade point average. Unexcused late work or failure to turn in assignments will affect your grade, so please plan ahead, and communicate conflicts with your instructor.

**Course Credits**

The Hope School of Ministry at The Urban Ministry Institute is now offering the opportunity for students to increase (or decrease) the number of credits they earn for each course they take by successfully completing the course requirements for the amount of credits they desire to achieve (see chart below).

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| --- | --- |
| **Credit Hours Earned** | **Required Assignments for Course and Workshop Credit** |
| 1 Credit | Registration; Attendance; Memory Verses;  Book Precis (1 page per book) |
| 2 Credits | Registration; Attendance; Memory Verses;  Ministry Project; Final Exam;  5 Page Paper; Book Precis (2 pages per book) |
| 3 Credits | Registration; Attendance; Memory Verse;  Final Exam; 8 Page Paper; Ministry Project;  Book Precis (4 pages per book) |

**PLEASE NOTE: The student is required to register the number of credits they desire to take on or before the first day of class. The students grade (for their work) will be calculated based on what they registered for at the beginning of class.**

**Course Schedule & Contents**

**DATE TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Jan 31** Introduction and the Nicene Interpretation of Church Planting Movements

**Feb 7** Defining Church Planting Movements

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 1-17

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 11-29

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. Forward - 16

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 7-17

Memory Passage: **Ephesians 4.1-3**

**Feb 14** Alternative Forms of Spirituality and Church: Local, Community, Mega, and Networks

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 19-39

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 34-64

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. 17-38

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 19-25

Memory Passage: **Ephesians 4.4-7**

**Feb 21** Can or Should It Work Here?: Elements of Church Planting Movements On Foreign Soil.

Scripture Reading: Romans 15

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 41-59

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 65-83

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. 39- 54

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 26-34

Memory Passage: **Romans 12.4-5**

Assignment: Exegetical Study Project **Topic** Due

**Feb 28** New Ways of Doing “Church:” The Role of Tradition In CPMs

Scripture Reading: Matthew 15

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 61-84

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 85-97

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. 55-80

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 35-43

Memory Passage: **Jude 3-4**

**Mar 6** Patterns of Structure and Religious Authority in Church Planting Movements

Scripture Reading: Acts 6

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 85-99

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 99-122

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. 81-91

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 44-53

Memory Passage: **Ephesians 4.11-12**

Assignment: Ministry Project Proposals Due

**Mar 13**  Mobilizing American Cities for Church Planting Movements: Issues and Concerns

Scripture Reading: Acts 2

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 101-121

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 123-154

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. 93- 102

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 54-60

Memory Passage: **1 Cor. 12.4-8**

Assignment: Exegetical Project Due

**Mar 20** Roundtable and Response: Dialogue on the Theory and Practice of Church Planting Movements

Scripture Reading: Acts 15

Readings: Barna, *Revoution*, pp. 123-140

Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*, pp. 155-168

Kreider, *House Church Networks*, pp. 103-107

Mull, *A Biblical Church Planting Manual*, pp. 61-69

Assignment: Ministry Project Due

Take Home Final Exam passed out

**Apr 11 Take Home Final Due**

**Exegetical Project**

Organic Church Growth (Part I)

**Purpose**

This assignment represents a key part of your participation in this *Rescue the Perishing* course of study. In order to fulfill this requirement, you must *select a passage of Scripture,* and do *an inductive study* (*exegesis*) on the text. You may choose any one of the following Scripture texts:

1. 1 Cor. 12.4-13
2. Ephesians 4.11-16
3. Romans 12.4-8
4. Ephesians 4.1-7
5. 1 Peter 4.7-11
6. Titus 2.11-15
7. Acts 2.42-47

The purpose of this project is to give you an opportunity to do a detailed study of a major passage of Scripture which highlights some dimension of what you learned or focused on in this course. Perhaps nothing is more important for a Christian leader than their ability to make plain the meaning of Scripture, and relate it to the real life concerns of people today. The aim of this paper, therefore, is for you to not only make clear the meaning of the passage, but also relate the meaning of the passage directly to your own personal walk of discipleship, and to those whom God has called you to minister to in and through your church or ministry.

**Outline and Composition**

Your paper should be divided into three parts. Start by discussing what you believe the passage *meant first* in its own setting. Next, once you have summarized what it *meant,* you should talk about what this principle *means to us*, drawing out principles that relate to our problems and issues today. Finally, you should talk briefly about how this truth *applies to our lives and ministries today*.

Three simple questions will guide you as you explore the Bible passage for its truths and insights:

1. What was *God saying to the people in the text’s original situation?*

2. What principle(s) does *the text teach that is true for all people everywhere,* including today?

3. What is *the Holy Spirit asking me to do with this principle here, today,* in my life and ministry?

Here is a *sample outline* for your paper:

1. List out what you believe is *the main theme or idea* of the text you selected.
2. *Summarize the meaning* of the passage (you may do this in two or three paragraphs, or, if you prefer, by writing a short verse-by verse commentary on the passage).
3. *Outline one to three key principles or insights* this text provides on the subject of how this text speaks to the topic/theme of this course.
4. Tell how one, some, or all of the principles may relate *to one or more* of the following:
   1. Your personal spirituality and walk with Christ
   2. Your life and ministry in your local church
   3. Situations or challenges in your community and general society

As an aid or guide, please feel free to read the course texts and/or commentaries, and integrate insights from them into your work. (Of course, make sure that you give credit to whom credit is due if you borrow or build upon someone else’s insights. Use in-the-text references, footnotes, or endnotes. Any way you choose to cite your references will be acceptable, as long as you 1] use only one way consistently throughout your paper, and 2] indicate where you are using someone else’s ideas, and are giving them credit for it.)

Make certain that your exegetical project, when turned in meets the following standards:

1. It is legibly written or typed
2. Is a study of one of the passages above
3. It is turned in on time (not late)
4. It is 5 pages in length (for 2 credits)
5. It is 8 pages in length (for 3 credits)
6. It follows the outline given above, clearly laid out for the reader to follow
7. It shows how the passage relates to life and ministry today
8. Please note: I am not looking for either filler or super-wide margins in this project. Carefully follow each step of the outline and you will have received plenty of insight, and therefore you will have plenty to write!

Do not let these instructions intimidate you; this is a Bible study project! All you need to show in this paper is that you *studied* the passage, *summarized* its meaning, *drew out* a few key principles from it, and *have related* them to your own life and ministry.

**Ministry Project**

Organic Church Growth (Part I)

**Purpose**

The Word of God is living and active, and penetrates to the very heart of our lives and innermost thoughts (Hebrews 4.12). James the Apostle emphasizes the need to be doers of the Word of God, not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. We are exhorted to apply the Word, to obey it. Neglecting the invaluable discipline of obedience to the Word of God, James suggests, is analogous to a person who views his natural face in a mirror and then forgets his identity, both who he is, what he is meant to do, and how he was meant to live. In every case, the doer of the Word of God will be blessed in what he or she does (James 1.22-25).

Our sincere desire is that you will practically apply your learning, matching and correlating your learning with the very real experiences and needs in your personal life, and your ministry in and through your church. *Therefore, a key part of completing this course will be for you to design a ministry project to help you share some of the insights you have learned from this course with others.*

**Planning and Summary**

The focus here is application and sharing your insights – many ways exist which allow you to fulfill this requirement. Choose a place where you can concisely and clearly share your insights of this course. For instance, you may choose to:

1. Conduct a brief study of your insights with an individual
2. Share during a devotional in your Sunday School class, youth group, or adult Bible study
3. Share during a sermon or ministry event
4. Dialogue with a friend, coworker, or neighbor using your workshop insights

Whatever lessons you determine to share with others, or wherever you decide to share them, the goal for this assignment will be the same for everyone: *I want you to take time to share the insights you received in this course with others in order that they can glean from your knowledge, and you can interact with others on what you have learned.*

Moreover, focus your sharing and discussion on the very specific insights that *you have gleaned* from our study together, not just on what was covered by the instructor. If at all possible, ask your audience for feedback and if you can seek to dialogue with them about your presentation, whether it is an audience of one or before a large group. Furthermore, please feel free if you like to share insights also from your Exegetical Project in place of or in addition to your other concepts.

Above all, make certain that you allow yourself some flexibility in the fulfillment of your project–make it creative, and open ended. You should decide where you want to share your insights and plan ahead and avoid the last minute rush in selecting and carrying out your project.

After you have carried out your plan, write a one-page summary or evaluation (full page, double spaced) of your time of sharing, and give it to the Instructor (you may mail it in or drop it by the TUMI office). A *sample outline* of your Ministry Project summary is as follows:

1. Your name
2. The place where you shared, and the audience with whom you shared
3. A brief summary of how your time went, how you felt, and how they responded
4. What you learned from the time

**Reading and Precis Assignment**

Organic Church Growth (Part I)

**Purpose**

A critical part of your own leadership development is the ability to engage the ideas and claims of others respectfully, to read what they have written, and restate their position clearly, whether or not you believe it. Only when you understand and restate their argument are you in a position to evaluate its truth value. You must strive to understand before you seek to judge.

Please note: *your work for this assignment will differ depending on how many credits you hope to receive from this workshop.*

For instance, if you are taking the workshop for *1 credit,* you will need to write a half-page summary of the meaning of the text, and an additional half-page giving your reaction to its content. For those taking this workshop for *2 credits,* you will need to write a page summarizing the key principles of the text, and a page highlighting your reaction with these principles. Finally, if you are taking the course for *3 credits,* you will need to summarize the arguments of the book in two pages, and write out your own detailed analysis of the key principles (to you) in an additional two pages. The following chart will help you understand the different weights of assignment:

1. Workshop for 1 Credit: 1 page total (half-page summary, half-page response)
2. Workshop for 2 Credits: 2 page total (single page summary, single page response)
3. Workshop for 3 Credits: 4 page total (two page summary, two page response)

**Outline and Composition**

Whatever your credit level for this workshop, your precis (summary and reaction paper) should be legibly handwritten or typed, double-spaced. Follow the guidelines given below, especially paying attention to include both your understanding of the author’s argument as well as your own careful analysis of the argument’s worth.

Your summary ought to be divided into three sections:

1. List the general bibliographical information (title, author, publisher, date published).
2. As best as you can, outline the book’s thesis and a few key supporting points of its argument. In other words, answer the question: *What is this book about, and what is the author trying to say?* Write out what you believe the author’s main point is, along with any key supporting sub-points you think should be included. This ought to represent half of your entire precis, and be presented in a logical and organized fashion. Basically, please show that you understand the author’s main point, and then how he/she backed up what they were saying (supporting subpoints).
3. Finally, the second half of your precis should reflect upon what the author said. Now that you have identified the main point (these) and various supporting points, tell me what you think about it. Did the author support the argument with good, relevant evidence? Was it logically presented? Was it persuasive in its content? How does this thesis line up with your own personal walk and ministry? Use these and other questions to react to the validity and usefulness of the book.