



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

Erskine Columbia Campus
1500 Lady Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
www.erskine.edu/seminary

**PM 745CO: Church Planting and Renewal
(January Term 2012)**

Class Meeting Dates, Time, and Place

January 23 - 27, 2012
9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Erskine Columbia Campus

Instructors:

Alan J. Avera, D. Min.

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Kenneth E. Priddy, D. Min.

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Ken is Director of Church Renewal for Outreach North America.

Office Hours (Erskine Campus):

During the days the class meets (January 23 - 27), the instructor will be available 8:30 – 8:55 A.M., and from 5:05 – 5:30 P.M. by appointment, and at other times by telephone or email.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to challenges and strategies involved in church planting and church renewal, and considers Biblical, spiritual, structural, and sociological factors that impact healthy church development. Students think critically about a typical life cycle of a congregation and the relationship of renewal to that life cycle. In addition, students develop skills in church planting and renewal. *Elective. Alternate years. Three hours.*

Course Goals and Objectives

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian church. As part of that mission, the Seminary offers courses in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. This course relates directly to three of the goals for that degree program:

- Graduates will be prepared to view their ministries in light of the Church's mission to worship, follow, bear witness to, and serve Jesus Christ.
- Graduates will be prepared to communicate the Bible's message through preaching and evangelism, so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today.
- Graduates will be prepared to lead the local congregation in forging its goals and designing and implementing its forms of ministry.

In keeping with these goals, the instructor intends that by the end of the term, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the need and the Biblical foundations for planting new churches and renewing existing churches.
2. Understand the typical lifecycle of a congregation and diagnose where a congregation is on the lifecycle.
3. Understand what is involved in new church development and identify key milestones for each phase of development.
4. Understand the factors leading to decline and to renewal.
5. Identify and begin to develop skills needed for new church development and church renewal.
6. Develop a church plant proposal for planting a new church or a ministry action plan for renewing an existing church.

Course Required Textbooks

Two books are required for everyone to read:

Rainer, Thom S. and Eric Geiger. *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2006.

[bring to class on Tuesday, January 24]

Payne, J.D. *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Colorado Springs: Paternoster, 2009.

[bring to class on Thursday, January 26]

One additional book of your choice:

Each student needs to choose one other book to read on the topic of church planting or church renewal. This additional book should be chosen based on your interests and background. Please choose a book that you have not read as an assignment for another

class. The additional book should either be submitted in advance for instructor approval, or should be chosen from the following list:

- Keller, Timothy J. and J. Allen Thompson. *Church Planter Manual*. New York: Redeemer Church Planting Center, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2002. [available from: http://www.redeemer2.com/rstore/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=159]
- Nebel, Tom. *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities*. St. Charles, IL: Church Smart Resources, 2002.
- Patrick, Darrin. *Church Planter: The Man, The Message, The Mission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.
- Reeder, Harry L. III. *From Embers to a Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church*. Revised and Expanded. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2008.
- Stetzer, Ed and Mike Dodson. *Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can Too*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2007.
- Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches: Planting a Church that's Biblically Sound and Reaching People in Culture*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2006.
- Wells, Barney, Martin Giese, and Ron Klassen. *Leading Through Change: Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*. St. Charles, IL: Church Smart Resources, 2005.

Course Requirements and Expectations

- **Policy Regarding Absences**
Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students need approval of the professor to arrive late or leave early. A student is responsible for all work missed. Missing more than 3 hours of class time will result in reduction in the letter grade from the course. A student missing more than a cumulative one-half day of attendance should consult with the professor to see if it is still possible to pass the course.
- **Grading Criteria & Scale**
Criteria:
Reading reports (30%)
Three reports each worth 10% of your total grade. Reading reports will be 3-4 pages, double-spaced, and in the format provided at the end of this syllabus. The reports for the two books that are required for everyone to read will be due the day each book is discussed in class. The report for the one additional book will be due the Monday after the last class session. Papers turned in late will receive an automatic one-letter grade deduction.

Class Participation (30%)

A grade based on your individual participation and your contribution to group exercises and discussions.

Final Project: Church Plant Proposal or M-Pact Action Plan (40%)

Not to exceed 16 pages. The format for the Church Plant Proposal is provided at the end of this syllabus. The format for the M-Pact Action Plan will be given in class.

Scale:

A	95-100
A-	93-94
B+	91-92
B	88-90
B-	86-87
C+	84-85
C	80-83
C-	78-79
D+	76-77
D	72-75
D-	70-71
F	0-69

- **Class Schedule**

Monday, January 23

A.M.

Introduction to the course

Overview of church revitalization

P.M.

Aligning Perception

Aligning Vision Part 1

Tuesday, January 24

A.M.

Aligning Vision Part 2

Aligning Strategy Part 1

P.M.

Aligning Strategy Part 2

Book Discussion: *Simple Church* by Rainer and Geiger

Aligning Structure

Wednesday, January 25

A.M.

Aligning People – Including Establishing the Pastor as Leader
M-Pact Action Plan final project

P.M

Introduction to church planting
The need for church planting
Biblical foundations for church planting

Thursday, January 26

A.M.

Competencies needed for church planting
Church planting models
Book discussion: *Discovering Church Planting* by Payne
Overview of Church Planting proposal

P.M.

Overview phases of new church development
Cultivating the ground
Identifying the target area and primary ministry focus group

Friday, January 27

A.M.

Planting the Seed
Community networking and developing a launch team
Underground growth and development

P.M.

Visible development, growth, and multiplication
Church plant survivability
Implications of the lifecycle of a congregation for church planting

- **Due Dates**

Reading reports – Due as follows:

- January 24 – Rainer and Geiger, *Simple Church*.
- January 26 – Payne, *Discovering Church Planting*.
- January 30 – Additional book of your choice.

Final Project: Either a Church Plant Proposal for planting a new church, or M-Pact Action Plan for revitalizing an existing church – **Due February 3.**

- **Paper Style**

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point Times New Roman type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). Footnotes are required as necessary in each paper, but this course will not require a cover page (except for Ministry Action Plan) or bibliography for assigned papers.

Seminary Policies

Click this link and read carefully as part of this syllabus contract:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

Instructions and formats for Papers

Reading Report Format – three-four pages double spaced

Format for the Two Assigned Books.

Upper right hand corner: Your name and contact information

Below your name and contact information, centered at the top of the page: Reading Report on _____(name of book).

Then organize the body of the report according to this outline (include the outline and headings in your paper):

- I. Summary** – Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective, and approach. What are the main things the author seeks to communicate? [15%]
- II. Critique** – Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness. What is your evaluation of the book? [15%]
- III. Application** – Offer some specific examples of things from the book that you can apply to your own ministry. Be as specific as possible. Explain what you plan to apply and identify specifically how you plan apply it. How will reading this book make a difference in your ministry? [15%]
- IV. Favorite Quotes** – Two or three comments in the book that caught your attention, made you think, or had a particular impact on you. Please include the page number where the quote may be found. [5%]
- V. Statement of amount read** – “I read the entire book (not just skimmed).” If you did not read the entire book, then state the number of pages you actually read. [50%]
[note: in brackets is the percent of the grade each section of the paper is worth]

Format for the Book of Your Choice.

Upper right hand corner: Your name and contact information

Below your name and contact information, centered on the page: Reading Report on _____ (full bibliographic information).

Then organize the body of the report according to this outline (include the outline and headings in your paper):

I. Summary – Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective, and approach. What are the main things the author seeks to communicate? [15%]

II. Why This Book – Give a brief explanation of why you chose this book as the additional book to read. Did the book meet your expectation, why or why not? Would you recommend it to others, why or why not? [15%]

III. Application – Offer some specific examples of things from the book that you can apply to your own ministry. Be as specific as possible. Explain what you plan to apply and identify specifically how you plan apply it. How will reading this book make a difference in your ministry? [15%]

IV. Favorite Quotes – Two or three comments in the book that caught your attention, made you think, or had a particular impact on you. Please include the page number where the quote may be found. [5%]

V. Statement of amount read – “I read the entire book (not just skimmed).” If you did not read the entire book, then state the percentage of the total pages that you actually read. [50%]

[note: in brackets is the percent of the grade each section of the paper is worth]

Final Project: (students will choose to do either a Church Plant Proposal for planting a new church, or M-Pact Action Plan for revitalizing an existing church).

Church Plant Proposal

The proposal should apply to a real community that could be a good potential location for developing a new congregation. The student should apply course content in the Church Plant Proposal.

Page one should be a title page. In the center of the title page, indicate Church Plant Proposal, then under that, list the proposed name of the church plant and the location (city and state). Put your name and contact information in the bottom right hand corner.

Page two should be a graphic representation of the vision and strategy for making contact with new people, assimilating them, and making multiplying disciples. Subsequent pages should be in narrative form and double-spaced with Times New Roman in 12-point type. This paper should be no more than 16 pages.

The narrative section should follow this outline:

- I. Personal Assessment [4-5 pages]
 - A. Biblical foundations for church planting
 - B. Need for church planting
 - C. Competencies you bring

- II. Proposed church plant
 - A. Where?
 - Pinpoint the geographic location or locations you are considering.
 - B. Why? What is the need for a new church in this area?
 - Explain why this location.
 - Explain what you know about other churches in the area.
 - Explain what you know about the population and population trends.
 - C. Who? Ministry Focus Group
Who are you preparing to reach in that target area?
 - Describe the people in the area.
What do you know about their worldview?
 - Describe any core group that would be part of your work.
What do you know about their core values & preferences?
 - D. What?
 - Briefly describe some characteristics of the church you would plant.
 - Briefly describe your vision for reaching this ministry focus group.
 - What are some of your core values in developing a new church?
 - E. How? Strategy
 - Give some of your preliminary ideas about strategy.
How is this ministry focus group best reached?
How will you disciple new people?
 - F. When? Preliminary Timeline for Developing a Church
 - Include projected start date and key milestones.
 - Include target date for the mission being organized as a congregation.
 - G. How Much? Needs
 - Give a preliminary estimate of how much money is needed?
 - Are there other needs?
 - Please include a budget of projected sources of income vs. expense
(format will be provided in class)

M-Pact Action Plan

The other option for your final project is an M-Pact Action Plan for revitalizing an existing church. You will be given a format for this project in class. This paper should be no more than 16 pages