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# ME 730 Planting New Churches

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Asbury Theological Seminary  
Fall Term, 2004  
Tuesday 6:15-9 p.m.  
Professor: Crandall  
Credit: Three Hours

Prospectus for the Course  
ME 730  
PLANTING NEW CHURCHES

I. INTRODUCTION AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to "Planting New Churches" for the fall semester, 2004. I am Ron Crandall, McCreless Professor of Evangelism in the E. Stanley Jones School. This is a course I love to teach and have been teaching for 20 years. The course is designed to provide an orientation to the theological, sociological, and practical dimensions of starting new churches in North America. In addition we will take a look at case studies and opportunities for new church planting in other lands. There will be a definite emphasis on the "how to" and on the diversity of models being successfully employed today. Several new church planters and denominational leaders in this work will be with us in class to share their insights and lessons.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

With the much welcomed and long overdue renewal of interest in the new congregational development by many denominations, we intend to provide students with the best literature and insights available for successful leadership in this critical ministry of church planting. By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical, historical and cultural rationale for church planting.
2. Understand the significance and alternative strategies for building a core group.
3. Clarify their personality profiles, core values and ministry action plans.
4. Use demographic data to design culturally appropriate forms of evangelism, worship, discipleship, and leader development.
5. Plan for a church multiplication movement not just a single new church plant.
6. Access a wide variety of helpful resources on the internet.
7. Feel part of a network of church planters around the country and around the world.

In short, students will be ready to support others in new church planting efforts or begin a new church ministry of their own starting with day one.

III. PROCEDURE AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course consists of weekly class sessions meeting Tuesday evenings from 6:15 to 9:00.

- **Classes** will include lectures, videos, discussion, personal research, and guest resource leaders.
- **Readings**, both required and collateral are considered part of the curriculum and a final reading record must be turned in on a "Reading Record" form (attached) by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. One point will be lost for each 50 pages not completed.
- **A Critical Book Review** following guidelines provided is due on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Texts noted with an asterisk \* on the reading list are recommended.
- **A Course Project** is due on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Any student **absent** for more than one class period will need to read 100 extra pages for the class missed, complete a reading report on the material, and consult with the professor regarding other possible assignments.

A. READING REQUIREMENTS (15% of Grade)

The following are required texts and a **reading report** must be completed on each:

1. Tom Jones, ed., Church Planting from the Ground Up, 2004 (350 pages).  
Reading report due on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. Ed Stetzer, Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age, 2003, (340 pages).  
Reading report due on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
3. Dan Kimball, The Emerging Church, 2003, (240 pages).  
Reading report due on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to required reading, at least 500 pages of collateral reading must be read from the texts listed below or other materials approved by the professor. Materials read previously cannot be counted as collateral for this course.

1. \*Stuart Murray, Church Planting: Laying Foundations, 2001.
2. Ralph Moore, Starting a New Church, 2002
3. \*Linus Morris, The High Impact Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1998.
4. Dan Kimball, Emerging Worship, 2004.
5. Aubrey Malphurs, Planting Growing Churches for 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 1992.
6. Bill Hybels, Courageous Leadership, 2002.
7. \*Reggie McNeal, Revolution in Leadership, 1998.
8. \*Erwin McManus, An Unstoppable Force, 2001.
9. \*Peter Scazzero, The Emotionally Healthy Church, 2003.
10. \*Reggie McNeal, The Present Future, 2003.
11. Craig Miller, Next Church.Now: Creating New Faith Communities, 2000.
12. Brian McLaren, The Church on the Other Side, 2000.
13. Harvie Conn, ed., Planting and Growing Urban Churches, 1997.
14. Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Church, Zondervan, 1995.
15. Lyle Schaller, 44 Steps Up Off The Plateau, Abingdon, 1993.
16. Tom Steffen, Passing the Baton: Church Planting That Empowers, 1993.
17. Oscar Romo, American Mosaic: Church Planting in Ethnic Churches, 1993
18. Peter Wagner, Church Planting for a Greater Harvest, 1990.
19. George Barna, A Step-by-Step Guide to Church Marketing, 1992.
20. \*David Hesselgrave, Planting Churches Cross-Culturally 2nd Ed, 2000.
21. Charles Brock, Principles and Practice of Indigenous Church Planting, 1981.
22. Lyle Schaller, 44 Questions for Church Planters, 1990.
23. Shenk & Stutzman, Creating Communities of the Kingdom, 1988.
24. Lyle Schaller, Center City Churches, 1993.
25. Greenway and Monsma, Cities: Mission's New Frontier, 1989.
26. Bob Logan, Beyond Church Growth, 1989.
27. David Garrison, Church Planting Movements, (SBC IMB), 2000.
28. Hozell C. Francis, Church Planting in the African American Context, 1999.
29. George Hunter, Church for the Unchurched, 1996
30. Kevin Mannoia, Church Planting: The Next Generation, 1994.
31. Charles Chaney, Church Planting at the End of the 20th Century (Revised Ed), 1991.
32. \*Paul Hiebert and Eloise Menses, Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies, 1995.
33. Avery Dulles, Models of the Church-Expanded Edition, 1987.

AND Various materials from the internet, the library, or denominational sources.

B. THE BOOK REVIEW (15% of Grade) **DUE 11/30/04**

Students must select one of the texts above marked (\*) and write a 750 to 800 word (word count important) critical book review following guidelines provided for writing academic-critical book reviews. PLEASE read samples of such reviews in *academic journals* if you are unfamiliar with this assignment.

C. CLASS PROJECT (50% of Grade) **DUE 12/07/04**

Each student will be responsible for a class project and a written report (or a take home final examination) due the last day of class. The following projects are considered to be most helpful, but other projects may be accepted after consultation with the professor.

1. Create your own MAP (Ministry Action Plan) following the process outlined in The Vital Church Leadership Incubator Guidebook and presented in class.
2. Choose a political area (a county, city, census tract, etc.) and study the census and/or current demographic reports. Compare this with earlier demographic studies or census for trends. Identify and interview at least one knowledgeable person who can interpret trends being noted and projected for the next decade. Then, do a "windshield survey" and identify at least one tract or other section of your area "ripe" for new church development. Write a simulated (or actual) proposal for such development to your judicatory office and make your case. Copy it to your professor.
3. Participate in a community survey seeking out the unchurched in a neighborhood or area. Evaluate their receptivity and identify basic human, social, and spiritual needs. Project the kinds of ministries and emphases that would best reach these people for Christ if a new church were to be started. Give a brief description of how you would plant a new church in this area, including your core values and philosophy of ministry.
4. Work with and interview a local pastor and/or denominational official involved in new church development. Evaluate the experience and report on lessons learned, contributions made, recommendations, etc.
5. Interview three new church planting pastors and at least two lay persons in each church. Write up your interviews in the form of three case studies not to exceed five double-spaced typed pages each. Include in each case study the basic historical, demographic and statistical information, problems faced, special awareness of God's presence, special gifts and emphases of the pastor, and other similar ingredients emphasized in our texts or in class.
6. Write or phone your own church extension board or agency requesting all available information on preparing you for a church-planting ministry. Write up an evaluation of their program and materials including such matters as alternative models for new churches, cross-cultural and ethnic minority focus, mission opportunities, the relationship of your polity to successful new church development, etc. If possible, secure for the "class reserves" an extra copy of any material not currently on file from your denomination or agency.

D. CLASS PRESENTATION (10% of Grade)

All Th.M., D.Miss., and Ph.D. students will be asked to lead the class in a 15-20 minute presentation on some aspect of the challenge before us. Select one of the areas listed below and draw on both your reading and your personal experience. A handout and/or PowerPoint slide presentation will be helpful.

IV. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Although we may vary slightly from the order listed due to the availability of our "outside guests" and field contacts, our intended course outline is below.

Date	Session	TOPIC
9/07	I	Foundations: Biblical/Historical/Theological
9/14	II	Church Planting Pastors: Gifts, Personalities, and Style
9/21	III	Models & Strategies for New Churches
9/28	IV	Core Values and Vision (Barry Carpenter)
10/05	V	Developing a M.A.P. (Barry Carpenter)
10/12	VI	Leadership Development
10/19	VII	Advertising & Initial Contacts (Guest)
10/25	VIII	Kingdom Conference (Guest)
11/02	IX	Designing Worship (Guest)
11/09	X	Understanding & Reaching Unchurched (Guest)
11/16	XI	Working across cultures (Guest)
11/26		NO CLASS – READING WEEK
11/30	XII	The Emerging Church (Guest)
12/07	XIII	Buildings: House Churches & Building (Guest)

ME 730

## Reading Notes Format

Fall 2004

**Each text and/or article** you include in your reading notes section of your notebook should be evaluated and critiqued **in an expanded version** of the *abbreviated* form below.

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation: 1 (low) – 10 (high) \_\_\_\_

Elaborate citing strengths & weaknesses:

Summary of text or article and its major sections:

What new insights have you gained from reading this text? (**Cite pages or chapters**)

Where do you find yourself strongly agreeing or disagreeing with the author?

What are some ministry applications of these insights?

What are some issues, concerns, or questions this reading has prompted you to consider researching in greater depth?

**ME 730 End of Semester READING RECORD**

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature below)

I have read the following number of pages for ME 730, 2004.

**REQUIRED ASSIGNED READING:** (Sign below at Bottom of Page)

	Author	Title	Total Pages
1.	Tom Jones	<u>Church Planting</u> (350 pages)	_____
2.	Ed Stetzer	<u>Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age</u> (340 pages).	_____
3.	Dan Kimball	<u>The Emerging Church</u> , (240 pages).	_____
TOTAL PAGES OF ASSIGNED READING			_____

**COLLATERAL AND ELECTIVE READING:**

	Author	Title	Total Pages
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL PAGES OF COLLATERAL READING			_____
GRAND TOTAL PAGES READ FOR CREDIT			_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF **ABSENCES** FROM CLASS DURING SEMESTER \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKEUP READING:** (Not to exceed 100 pages = 1 Free + 1 Makeup = 2 Absences Maximum)

	Author	Title	Total Pages
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** / / \_\_\_\_\_