

Evangelism 542 Syllabus
Models of Contemporary Evangelism and Church Growth

Professor:

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Class Location and Times:

Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Note: We will also be attending a service together on
Wednesday night.
Room Location: BGC 309 (in BGC library)

Course Description:

Exposes students to strategies and models for evangelism, church planting and church growth through case studies, site visits, student projects and reflection experiences. Site visits will include mega-church, emerging church, urban church, multi-ethnic church, and parachurch ministry contexts. (4 credit hours)

Department Goal:

Our mission is to develop Christian professionals skilled in theory and practice for culturally-relevant service in a constantly changing world.

Evangelism Degree Goal:

Our mission is to develop people for effective leadership in evangelism that is informed by critical engagement with the nature of the gospel, Christian life and thought, and the cultures of the contemporary world.

Specific Assessment Goal for this Course:

By the end of this course, students will better **understand** the nature of the gospel, Christian life and thought, and cultures of the contemporary world in that they . . .

N3: Articulate the strengths and weaknesses for evangelism and mission of different models and strategies for ministry.

Students will be evaluated on the degree to which these goals were accomplished in the final research paper and in the personal journal for the course.

Textbooks:

Gibbs, Eddie. 2000. *Churchnext: Quantum changes in how we do ministry*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

Hunter, George G. 2003. *Radical outreach: The recovery of apostolic ministry and evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Kimball, Dan. 2003. *The emerging church: Vintage Christianity for new generations*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan.

Pritchard, G. A. 1996. *Willow creek seeker services: Evaluating a new way of doing church*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

Schwarz, Christian A. 2000. *Natural church development: A guide to eight essential qualities of healthy churches*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources.

Yancey, George A. 2003. *One body, one spirit: Principles of successful multiracial churches*: InterVarsity Press.

Goals of the course: In this course we will:

- a. Explore the biblical foundation of the church, its planting, its growth, and its impact in the world;
- b. Examine selected church ministry principles and evaluate them critically in light of Scripture and experience;
- c. Reflect on cultural considerations in regard to church planting and growth in a postmodern context.
- d. Look at the strengths and weaknesses of the homogeneous unit principle for multi-ethnic

- contexts.
- e. Integrate evangelism into ministry that seeks to bring the whole gospel to people and cultures.
 - f. Visit models of church planting and church growth, and reflect on those models critically, theologically, and contextually.
 - g. Develop a contextualized theology, philosophy, and strategy of ministry for church growth and effective ministry in a particular arena or geographical area.

Assignments and Grading:

- Class Participation (10% of the grade)
- Readings and 3 page summary and critique for each class text, using the following questions as a guide (20% of the grade):
 1. What are the main ideas expressed in this book? How do you evaluate those ideas?
 2. What stories struck you the most from this book, and why?
 3. What theological and practical perspectives on church (or parachurch) ministry do you want to incorporate into your thinking and leadership?
- 10 page paper. Students will research a church or ministry more fully by exploring the internet information on that church, reading any books or articles they can find on the church or ministry, attending a service during the week or weekend, attending a leadership or training meeting of the church, informally interviewing people during their visits, and interviewing a leader from the ministry. Students could research one of the churches our class goes to during the class session, or can propose another church and get approval for it from Dr. Richardson. Students will write a 10 page paper on what they learn about that church or ministry, answering the following questions:
 1. What is the story of the ministry? How did it get started and what were some defining events?
 2. What is the vision for this ministry, and how does the church or ministry pursue its vision? What impact is this church or ministry having?
 3. What do you discover about leadership and how it works in this church or ministry?

4. Who are they reaching and how are they integrating evangelism into their ministry?
 5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this ministry? Is this ministry growing, stagnating, or shrinking, and what do you think are the crucial issues that influence how the church or ministry is doing? Draw on what you learned from the course about the factors that influence church health and growth.
 6. What did you learn that you want to incorporate into your own ministry and leadership? What insights did this course and this research project give you about yourself and your own leadership, vision and values?
- 10-15 page journal. Students will also keep and turn in a journal based on class visits with churches and leaders. Students are encouraged to take time each evening to write their thoughts and reflections on their experiences of the day. Students will reflect on:
 - Stories and expressed values that especially struck you
 - Insights you get in relation to your own life and leadership
 - What you learn about the profile and priorities for this church or ministry, including
 - o Key events and moments in their history
 - o theological distinctives of this ministry
 - o unique vision and how they pursue that vision
 - o view of people, the surrounding culture, and the needs of the community
 - o interesting strategies and methodologies
 - o insights into leadership style and structure
 - o assessment of the impact of this ministry and its strengths and weaknesses

Assignment Due Dates:

- Readings and reflection papers on the readings due on the day of class on which we study that particular book and model of ministry (see schedule below). There will be a grade reduction for papers turned in after the last day of class.

- 10-page research paper and 10-15 page journal will be due 4 weeks after the last day of class (There will be a grade reduction for papers turned in after Monday, November 26th).
- Attendance at all classes required, with a grade reduction if more than one day is missed.
- Academic honesty will also be expected.

Course Schedule:

Monday: Introduction to Church (and parachurch) Growth and Ministry. Crucial Issues.

- *Natural Church Development* (Christian Schwarz)- 128
- *Church Next* (Eddie Gibbs)- 239.
- *Optional- Understanding Church Growth* (Donald McGavran)- 370.
- *Optional- I Believe in Church Growth* (Eddie Gibbs)- 431.

Tuesday: Racial Reconciliation Church.

- *One Body, One Spirit* (George Yancey)- 177
- Lawndale Christian Church

Emerging Church

- *The Emerging Church* (Dan Kimball)- 246
- River City Church in Logan Square

Wednesday: Charismatic Church

- *Optional- Reinventing American Protestantism* (Donald E. Miller)- 190.
- Vineyard Church of Evanston

Parachurch

- *Optional- The church & the parachurch : an uneasy marriage* (Jerry White)- 178.
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Northwestern
- Evening Service.

Thursday: Seeker Church.

- *Willow Creek Seeker Services* (Greg Pritchard)- 290
- *Optional- The Purpose Driven Church* (Rick Warren)- 398
- Community Christian Church of Naperville

Ancient Future Church

- *Optional- Ancient Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World* (Robert Webber)- 204.
- Church of the Resurrection

Friday: Pentecostal Church

- *Radical Outreach* (George Hunter)- 207
- *Optional- Fire from heaven : the rise of Pentecostal spirituality and the reshaping of religion in the twenty-first century* (Harvey Cox)- 300.
- Black Pentecostal Church (e.g. St. Sabina's on the South side).
- Asian American led multi-ethnic church (not Pentecostal, but this day was the best day to visit it.

Saturday: The Church (and parachurch) God Longs For,
concluding session