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DF 978Z CHURCH PLANTING/CHURCH RENEWAL

Summer 2018, [Erskine Virtual Campus \(EVC\)](#)

Delivery: Erskine Virtual Campus

Professor: Michael A. Milton, Ph.D., MPA
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Office Location and Hours:

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CLASS MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION

- Monday, June 18 through Monday, July 30, 2018
- **Seven-Week Intensive Online Course**
- Asynchronous Model (24/7 Access)
- Research papers, exams, and discussions due by the Monday of the week following

MISSION

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course equips students with the principles and strategies needed for developing new or reclining (plateaued) and declining churches into healthy, growing, reproducing churches. Students learn how to develop a Biblical vision for ministry and core values for church development. Lectures, discussion, readings, and workshop activities allow participants to formulate vision, values, and strategies. *Elective. Three hours.*

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to introduce the theological student as Christian shepherd and person to the Biblical and theological foundations and resources to discern, practice, and sustain a spiritually healthy ministry. The purpose of this course is to help the doctoral student to explore and grow in Biblical and theological understanding of vocation and the ongoing personal ministry of formation and transformation through Word, Sacrament, and Prayer, expressed through a variety of spiritual formation resources available. By the completion of this course, the student will:

1. **Articulate** his/her understanding of the Biblical mandate for new church development. **(DMIN SLOs 1a, 1b and 1c)**
2. **Express** with precision his/her critical thinking about the theological nature of church planting. **(DMIN SLOs 1b, 1c and 2a)**
3. **Implement** his/her discovery of the common principles required to start and revitalize churches. **(DMIN SLOs 2b, 2c, 2d and 3)**
4. **Utilize** learned skills and tools of assessing the health of a local church body. **(DMIN SLOs 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d)**
5. **Articulate** both methodologies and the stages involved in new church development. **(DMIN SLO 2a, 2b, 2c and 3)**
6. **Outline** the vocational portrait of a church planter according to Scripture. **(DMIN SLOs 1a, 2a, 2c, 2d, 3 and 4)**
7. **Demonstrate** an understanding of the necessary relation of culture and new church development. **(DMIN SLOs 2d and 3)**

GRADING, MODE OF INSTRUCTION, AND REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The grading scale for DMIN students published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade.

The assignments will be given letter grades. For letter grades, the scale is:

A	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	84-85
A-	3.7	93-94	C	2.0	80-83
B+	3.3	91-92	C-	1.7	78-79
B	3.0	88-90	—	—	—
B-	2.7	86-87	F	0.0	0-77

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

The class will be taught using these modes of instruction:

- (1) Online Lectures (asynchronous lectures that can be reviewed 24/7);
- (2) Readings;
- (3) Research;
- (4) Weekly 3-page research papers (in compliance with Turabian, plus cover sheet, bibliography with at least TWO peer-reviewed journal articles cited);
- (5) Weekly discussion that demonstrates theological reflection and critical thinking on the lesson of the week; and
- (6) A final church planting case study project (15 pages in length NOT including cover sheet and bibliography).

NOTE: Attendance is expected and is outlined below regarding Online Discussions. If absence for any reason is anticipated, the student is expected to withdraw from the class or receive a failing grade for the course.

DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIRED CLASS ASSIGNMENTS/COMPONENTS

1. Lecture Viewing and Discussion Group Participation
(Group research and daily class presentations) **(CLOs 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7)** 20%
 2. Reading Component
(Statement of Reading required) **(CLOs 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7)** 20%
 3. Research Papers (Papers & Projects)
(Weekly research paper that includes a cover, three pages of work and a bibliography. Each paper uses a minimum of two peer reviewed journal articles demonstrating the student's independent research for each respective lesson in the course.) **(CLOs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7)** 20%
 4. Capstone Project (Case Study)
(This is the culmination of the course learning into a major project by the student: a church planting plan. The project is explained in greater detail below.) **(CLOs 3, 4 and 7)** 40%
- Total Points 100%

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation is evaluated through viewing the lecture, responding to the professor's questions and interacting with peers on the discussion boards during the online portion of the class. (20%)
2. & 3. The Reading Component and Research Papers Component for this course requires a minimum of 1800 pages. Required are three-page reviews of each work chosen that utilize the student's theological reflection and critical thinking to apply the lessons learned to the practice of ministry. The student will submit a reading statement to document the degree or percentage of completion of the required reading. (20% + 20% = 40%)
4. The Capstone Project for this course will be a "Church Planting Plan" of at least 15 pages (NOT including cover page and bibliography). The paper will follow the general guidelines presented in class (a church planting plan based on your own denominational affiliation, a

geographic location of either an urban, suburban, or rural location in the CONUS; the area must be approved by the professor before significant work is done on the project.)

The outline will follow that provided in the textbook, *Finding a Vision for Your Church* (Milton). This research paper is expected to be supported by at least three peer reviewed journal articles, as well as citations from the course textbooks. **DUE by August 15, 2018.** (40%)

CLASS OUTLINE

- Week One: Lecture 1: Overview of Church Planting and Renewal
- Week Two: Lecture 2: Shallow Roots; Case Study Assignments; DMin students to notify professor of their choice of additional book from bibliography for reading and a research paper due by the end of the summer, August 15, 2018) (MDIV: 1300 pages; DMIN: 1800 pages)
- Week Three: Lecture 3: The Biblical Basis of Church Planting
- Week Four: Lectures 4-6: Portrait of a Church Planter
- Week Five: Lecture 7: Portrait of a Church Planter
- Week Six: Lecture 8: Church Planting Strategies
- Week Seven: Lectures 9-10: Stages, Stresses, and Defining Success in Church Planting; Class Wrap Up with attention to the Church Planting Plan

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a [bookstore portal](#). There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD and Amazon) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

PLEASE NOTE: When ordering a book that has been published in more than one edition, make certain that you acquire the correct one (check the ISBN number when ordering); do not attempt to substitute an older edition of a required textbook.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

“10 Qualifications of a Church Planter.” Acts 29. Accessed November 14, 2017.

<http://www.acts29.com/10qualificationsofachurchplanter2/>.

Lovelace, Richard F. *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*. Westmont: IVP Academic, 1979.

Milton, Michael A. *Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2012.

Stetzer, Ed, and Daniel Im. *Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches*, 2nd Ed. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016.

Other (nonrequired) Readings: DMIN students, choose readings for your research paper from the bibliography at the end of this syllabus. (The required textbooks above are a total of 1127 pages; your requirement is 1800 pages.)

NOTE: The bibliography at the end of this syllabus is for your scholarly and pastoral pursuits. Its inclusion should not be misconstrued as a blanket endorsement of any or all the entries by our faculty. We do believe that the titles represent a broad and good study of the subject.

SEMINARY POLICIES AND WRITING STANDARDS

For Seminary Policies: [Click here.](#)

All written work must conform to the latest edition of the Turabian manual of style and typed in twelve-point type, Times New Roman (or similar), normally double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Some reflection papers (which do not use footnotes) may be single spaced. See syllabus requirements for each assignment

Turabian, Kate L., et. al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Eighth ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. (464 pp., ISBN 978-0226816388)

Click [here](#) for a video tutorial on formatting a document in Turabian style.

Additional writing guidelines are available in the [Sample Paper and Writing Aids](#) folder found on the Seminary's web site. Here you will find sample papers for several courses, a "Seminary Research Paper Template," a Bibliography sample, footnote samples, and more.

Students who may need more assistance are encouraged to make use of the [Write Here Center](#) (Click Here) for improved writing skills.

Students may find the [Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Rubric](#) (Click Here). Scroll down to the Writing Assessment Rubric and download.

All written work presented is expected to be the student's own unless credit for the ideas, words, etc. of others is clearly identified. Plagiarism in sermons costs pastors their jobs. Plagiarism in class will not be tolerated and penalties will be assigned in keeping with the Seminary's Catalog.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the provisions of the Seminary's Catalog, particularly those governing registration for and withdrawal from classes, class attendance, grades (including incompletes), academic conduct, and expectations for written assignments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CHURCH PLANTING

Articles

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