

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH GROWTH

Course 88750 Spring 2006

May 20, 22-24

Sa, M, T 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

W 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Four credit hours

PROFESSOR: Dr. Chuck Lawless
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of contemporary church models through extensive literary research

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student who successfully completes this course should be prepared to:

1. Define and describe a “healthy church.”
2. Describe several models of the contemporary church.
3. Demonstrate skills for evaluating biblically several contemporary church growth philosophies.
4. Identify and outline several current works related to contemporary church models.
5. Demonstrate improved written and verbal communication skills as needed in the practice of ministry.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Every student will read *each* of the following books:

Barna, George. *State of the Church: 2005*. Ventura, CA: Barna Group, 2005.

Dever, Mark, and Paul Alexander. *The Deliberate Church*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2005.

Gibbs, Eddie, and Ryan K. Bolger. *Emerging Churches*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Lawless, Chuck. *Discipled Warriors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2003.

Russell, Bob. *When God Builds a Church*. West Monroe, LA: Howard, 2000.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Each student will also read and review one of the following books, as assigned by the professor.

Barna, George. *The Habits of Highly Effective Churches*. Ventura: Regal, 1999.

- Cole, Neil, and Leonard Sweet. *Organic Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005.
- Corderio, Wayne. *Doing Church as a Team*. Ventura: Regal, 2001.
- Frazer, Randy, and Dallas Willard. *The Connecting Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Laurie, Greg. *The Upside Down Church*. Wheaton: Tyndale, 1999.
- Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- MacArthur, John. *The Master's Plan for the Church*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.
- Macchia, Stephen A. *Becoming a Healthy Church: 10 Characteristics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- McClaren, Brian. *The Church on the Other Side*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- McManus, Erwin. *An Unstoppable Force*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- McNair, Donald J. *The Practices of a Healthy Church*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1999.
- Mims, Gene. *Kingdom Principles for Church Growth*. Nashville: Convention, 1994.
- Pope, Randy. *The Prevailing Church*. Chicago: Moody, 2002.
- Robinson, Darrell. *Total Church Life*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997.
- Ryken, Philip Graham. *City on a Hill*. Chicago: Moody, 2003.
- Schwartz, Christian. *Natural Church Development*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart, 1996.
- Sjogren, Steve. *The Perfectly Imperfect Church*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2002.
- Spader, Dann, and Gary Mayes. *Growing a Healthy Church*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.
- Wagner, C. Peter. *The Healthy Church*. Ventura: Regal, 1996.
- Werning, Waldo. *12 Pillars of a Healthy Church*. Ft. Wayne, IN: Discipling/Stewardship Center, 1999.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance and Participation**. Punctual and regular attendance is required. *In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the class.*

2. **Required Reading.** This course is based on readings of contemporary approaches to “doing church.” Each student is responsible to have completed assigned course texts as required in the course schedule. The professor will expect every student to be prepared to discuss the readings. For *each assigned primary text*, the student will engage in a thorough on-line, e-campus discussion according to the accompanying schedule. The student’s interaction should *clearly* indicate his thorough reading and analysis of the assigned text.
3. **Book Discussion and Outline.** Each student will introduce the class to the additional assigned text. Using the guide provided with this syllabus, students will prepare a general outline of the book. The outline will be due on the first day of class.
4. **Book of Acts Review.** Students will read the entire book of Acts and produce a list of characteristics of the early church. From that list, the student will write a seven-page, double-spaced synopsis of these findings. Each student will submit both the summary paper and the list of characteristics. Resources should include at least two academic commentaries.
5. **Research Paper.** Each student will prepare a 22-page, double-spaced research paper that completes this statement: “A healthy church _____.” The paper should reflect knowledge of available resources, interaction with assigned texts, and reflection on biblical materials. The final two pages of this paper will compare the student’s local church with his description of a “healthy” church.

EVALUATION/GRADING: The student’s final grade will be based on the following percentages:

Attendance and Participation:	15%
On-line Discussions:	25%
Book Outline and Presentation:	15%
Acts Reflection Paper:	20%
Research Paper:	<u>25%</u>
	100%

CLASS FORMAT: Teaching/learning techniques will include lectures, readings, written assignments, video presentations, small group discussions, guest speakers, and other techniques deemed appropriate. Each day of class will begin with a time of prayer.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, course objectives, general content, grading criteria, course requirements, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the term.

COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Week of Jan. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warren, <i>Purpose Driven</i> 	E-campus forum discussion
Week of Jan. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell, <i>When God Builds . . .</i> 	E-campus forum discussion
Week of Jan. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawless, <i>Discipled Warriors</i> 	E-campus forum discussion
Week of Feb. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dever, <i>Deliberate Church</i> 	E-campus forum discussion
Week of Feb. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gibbs, <i>Emerging Churches</i> 	E-campus forum discussion
Week of Mar. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barna, <i>State of the Church</i> 	E-campus forum discussion
Week of Mar. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Book of Acts 	PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL ON MARCH 31.
April - May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assigned book • Research paper 	Finish these assignments to be discussed in class

BOOK SUMMARY

Title: _____
Author: _____ Position/title: _____
Publisher and Date: _____ Rank/value (1-10): _____

THESIS OF THE BOOK (one declarative sentence):

GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE BOOK:

STRENGTHS OF THE BOOK:

WEAKNESSES OF THE BOOK:

SIGNIFICANT QUOTES FROM THE BOOK: