

Church Planting: Principles & Practice for Starting Healthy Churches that Reproduce Globally

Spring 2024

Jan. 28-May 5, 2024 | Mon. 6–9 pm

Conf. East, IDC Building



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Course Description

This IDC Equip course is meant to lay a biblical foundation for church planting, as well as provide practical instruction and guidance for how prospective church planters and church planting team members can faithfully serve together in the work of birthing a new gospel community.

Course Textbooks & Other Resources

1. Timmis, Steve. [*Multiplying Churches: Exploring God's Mission Strategy*](#). Christian Focus Publications Ltd, 2016 (191 pages). ISBN: 978-1781913246
2. Dever, Mark. [*The Church: The Gospel Made Visible \(9Marks\)*](#). B&H Publishing, 2012 (166 pages). ISBN: 978-1433677762
3. Knight, Nathan. [*Planting by Pastoring: A Vision for Starting a Healthy Church \(9Marks\)*](#). Crossway, 2023 (123 pages). ISBN: 978-1433588112
4. Payne, J.D. [*Apostolic Church Planting: Birthing New Churches from New Believers*](#). InterVarsity Press, 2015 (122 pages). ISBN: 978-0830841240
5. Keller, Timothy. [*Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*](#). Zondervan, 2012 (portions from Gospel and Movement sections). ISBN: 978-0310-494188

Participation & Attendance Expectations

This is a discussion-heavy, collaborative course. Please come to each meeting prepared to discuss all scheduled readings and other assignments according to the Course Schedule (below). Come ready to ask questions and engage in discussion on topics covered.

Please prioritize attending all scheduled meetings, unless providentially hindered. **If you expect to miss 2 or more meetings during this course**, please talk with Pastor Zac before the course begins.

Class time will generally be divided into 3 segments: (1) study of a biblical text, (2) book discussion, and (3) discussion of special topics & position papers.

Writing & Other Requirements

[1] Scripture Study & Memorization –

Before each class meeting, **everyone** should read, reflect on, and memorize the assigned biblical text as laid out in the Course Schedule. Come with at least one discussion question related to pastoral ministry based on the passage studied that week.

[2] Book Reading, Engagement & Discussion –

(a) Everyone should **read all assigned books and other resources** with reasonable care by the date indicated in the Course Schedule and come prepared to participate in group discussion.

(b) Everyone must complete a **book discussion guide** ([see the template here](#)) for each book we discuss. Please send these to the instructor **by the Sunday before class**. However, you **DO NOT** need to complete a discussion guide on the week(s) you are assigned to write a position paper (you still need to read the book, though).

[3] Position Papers –

Each week we will consider one ministry topic, issue, or situation. Some weeks, one or more participants will be assigned to explain their position on that week's topic (working independently of one another) in a **2–3 page, single-spaced paper**. These papers will be the result of Bible study and research.

You will be assigned to write **1 of these position papers**. These papers should be sent **to all class participants by the Saturday before class**. In our class meeting, whoever was assigned to write on that week's topic will present their position briefly (5 mins or less) and be prepared to answer questions related to the topic. **Everyone else should read the position papers before the meeting** and come prepared to engage the topic with questions, observations, objections, etc.

[4] Church Planting Prospectus –

Choose a City OR other strategic ministry context (people group or place), research that city/place/people. Interview 5 church planting and/or missionary leaders in the context to include as sources in your prospectus. **Draft a 4-6 page, single spaced, prospectus** following the outline below. Get started on initial components early in the semester. The goal of this project is to be personal and practical in nature. Encouragement is given for the student to select a region of potential interest for him or her or consider a location in which his or existing church might have interest in planting a church in the future.

- Why is a church needed in this area?
- What guiding philosophy of ministry would shape a church plant?
- How might this vision be communicated clearly and compellingly?
- How will the church be led?
- What resources will be needed for the plant?
- What milestones of development will the church strive to attain and what changes will they take at each juncture?
- How can others be a part of the vision?
- How will the church measure success?

Come to class **prepared to present** your prospectus.

Course Schedule

Church Planting: Principles and Practice for Starting Healthy Churches that Multiply Globally

Wk	Date	Bible / Memory	Resources	Special Projects, Topics & Position Papers	
1	2/12	Titus 1:1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timmis, <i>Multiplying Churches</i> (chs 1-3) 	Teaching: Lessons on Church Planting from Antioch and IDC	Tony Merida
	2/19				
2	2/26	Titus 1:5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timmis, <i>Multiplying Churches</i> (chs 4-9) 	Paper: What makes a local church a church? When does a church become a church? What are the minimum requirements?	Group 1
	3/4				
3	3/11	Titus 1:10-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dever, <i>The Church</i> (part 1 & 3) 	Teaching: 8 Traits of a Healthy Church Member and How to Form Them in Your Members From the Start	Tony Merida
	3/18				
4	3/25	Titus 2:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knight, <i>Planting by Pastoring</i> (all) 	Teaching: 9 Essentials of a Church Planter	Tony Merida
	4/1				
5	4/8	Titus 2:9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knight, <i>Planting by Pastoring</i> (part 2) 	Paper: Exploring models (one assembly, network of simple churches, or multi-site): which is better? Why? Does context matter?	Group 2
	4/15				
6	4/22	Titus 2:11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payne, <i>Apostolic Church Planting</i> (all) 	Teaching: Building a Team and Getting Things Done Together	Tony Merida, Matt Sigmon
	4/29				
7	5/6	Titus 3:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keller, <i>Center Church</i> (Gospel & City, pp 29-134) 	Project: Church Planting Prospectus Exercise (pt 1)	Group 1
	5/13				
8	5/20	Titus 3:9-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keller, <i>Center Church</i> (Movement, pp 251-380) 	Project: Church Planting Prospectus Exercise (pt 2)	Group 2

Group 1

1 Lauren Prevett

2 Sarah Martin

3 Kelsey Vensk

4 Rodmehr Rahimizadeh

5 Roby Thomas

6 Grace Prall

7 Jason Davis

Group 2

1 Lizzy Davis

2 Josh Middleton

3 Tori Puckett

4 Hannah Jordan

5 JingJing Lin

6 Taylor Pilkington

Additional Info & Requirements for Those Receiving SEBTS Credit

Course: Church Planting Practicum (MIS 6591)

Professor of Record: Dr. Matt Rogers (mrogers@sebts.edu)

EQUIP Office: equip@sebts.edu | (919) 761-2460

Course Description

An overview of global church planting in its theoretical and practical dimensions. Students will be equipped to develop a vision and values for church planting that is theologically driven and contextually appropriate. The case studies and models to be discussed and critiqued will be those that have arisen in North American and International contexts. This course may only be taken in conjunction with a SEBTS approved EQUIP Partner. 3 semester hr(s). Fall, Spring, or Summer at the request of EQUIP Partners.

Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the student should be able to do the following:

- Outline a basic theology of church planting and foundational issues in ecclesiology.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the issues related to the intersection of urban ministry, city context, and church planting.
- Examine several models of church planting in city contexts.
- Formulate a biblical, theological and missiological rationale for engaging peoples.
- Understand the essentials qualities and characteristics of an effective church planter that accounts for spiritual formation and spiritual warfare.
- Articulate a basic strategy for sharing the gospel that impacts diverse global contexts.
- Overview how to begin developing an effective vision, values, and support network for church planting.

Practical Ministry Requirements

Students are required to complete a total of 14 hours of practical ministry experience in the time of this course. SEBTS students should log their hours, including the date/time, ministry context, and specific activities.

Grading Information

<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Scripture Memory	10%	A 95-100
Book Discussion Guides	20%	B 87-94
Position Papers	10%	C 77-86
Prospectus	20%	D 70-76
Practical Ministry Logs	20%	F Below 70
Class Participation	20%	

NOTE: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an immediate failing grade on the assignment with no chance for resubmission. The instructor does have the option either to allow the student to

remain in and complete the course or to dismiss the student from the course completely. Regardless of the instructor's ruling, all cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and the appropriate Academic Dean(s) where further disciplinary action will be considered. At the very least, a permanent record of the infraction will be kept in the student's file. For further information regarding this policy, please refer to the 'Plagiarism & Cheating' section of the Student Handbook.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The reading and writing assignments in this syllabus satisfy the SEBTS credit hour policy and have been calculated with these requirements in mind. Outside work includes reading textbooks, researching and writing papers or other exercises, completing online exercises, and viewing online lectures.

SEBTS Mission Statement

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19–20).

SEBTS Core Competencies

This course is designed for you to be able to grow in the following SEBTS core competencies:

- ***Spiritual Formation:*** Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an authentically Christian way of life, manifested by trust in God, obedience to Christ's commands, and love of God and neighbor.
- ***Biblical Exposition:*** Demonstrate the ability to properly and effectively interpret, apply, and communicate the Scriptures.
- ***Theological Integration:*** Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to life and ministry.
- ***Ministry Preparation:*** Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and Christian disposition necessary for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.
- ***Critical Thinking and Communication:*** Demonstrate the ability to think critically, argue persuasively, and communicate clearly. We strive to do all of this while cultivating in students a delight in God, His Word, and His Church.