Course Syllabus

Missional Church Planting and Spontaneous Growth (WM/EV665)

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Charlotte

Spring 2016

Instructor: Jon C. Shuler, Ph.D

Contact Information: jon@namsnetwork.com [or text only 843-325-7900]

Schedule: The assignments for this course will extend throughout the Spring Semester. The class meetings will be on

January 22-23

February 19-20

March 18-19

Friday: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Personal Assistance: By arrangement with instructor.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction and systematic overview of missional church planting which, by the grace of God, leads to spontaneous growth for the church as an instrument of the kingdom. Included are biblical and theological rationales for church planting as a highly effective evangelistic strategy when understood from a missiological and contextually sensitive perspective. A variety of tools and methodologies will be introduced, with a particular focus on North American issues and opportunities.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following outcomes:

• Students should be able to present a biblical and missiological rationale for church planting as a viable methodology for evangelism and mission in the North American and global context.

• Students should complete individual assessments in terms of their personality, spiritual gifts, talents, motivation, leadership style and other personal factors in light of church planting requirements and evaluate their readiness and capacity to engage in church planting work in one role or another.

• Students should be able to clearly identify the major challenges and incentives for church planting and the impact these have upon the church planter.
• Students should be able to develop a theoretical church planting strategy that would lead to the extension of the kingdom of God.

**Required Textbooks and Materials:** The following are the required readings for the course. Students will be responsible for reading them and being familiar with their contents. A final statement of completion should be submitted at the end of the course to verify amount of reading completed.


**Extra Credit Reading:** Students can receive extra credit by completing additional reading from the Bibliography listed below. Students must submit their extra credit reading with their required reading report by identifying the books or articles read as well as the number of pages as well as a one page summary for each extra work read.


Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required in this case. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the stated date. Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those
individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

**Returned Work**
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self-addressed and postage-paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.

**Virtual Writing Center**
Free assistance in writing papers is available to students through the Virtual Writing Center at Gordon Conwell. The Virtual Writing Center is staffed by Gordon Conwell graduates, or writing tutors with specialized knowledge in writing and/or ESL. Generally, this service is available to students who have completed or are currently enrolled in one of the following three classes:

- CT500 (Introduction to Theological Research)
- CO501 (Introduction to Counseling Research)
- IS502 (Theological Research and Writing)

If you enrolled in GCTS before Fall 2008, you were not required to take one of the three pre-requisites above, and you may request access to the Virtual Writing Center. Also, ESL writing tutors are available to ESL students even if they are not currently enrolled in a degree program. If you do not meet one of these qualifications, but feel you would benefit from using the Virtual Writing Center, contact us and we will evaluate your status. Email writingcenter@gordonconwell.edu for more information.