



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYP2560HF
Course Name: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Marilyn Draper Teaching Assistant:
E-mail: marilyn.draper@utoronto.ca E-mail:
Office Hours:

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

None.

Course Description

Participation in God's mission through initiating new Christian communities is integral to the ministry of the 21st century Church, just as it has been in every generation since the apostolic era. In the midst of the current transitions and changes in Western society, new church plants, fresh expressions of church and creative ways of being church are emerging.

Whether you wish to explore the possibility of your call to this type of ministry, or whether you simply want to be aware of what is involved in initiating a church plant or fresh expression, this course provides theological, biblical, and practical foundations helpful for the creation of new Christian communities. Discussions will include: where to begin, how to develop a team, and what to consider when partnering with others. You will discover that success and failure may look differently than you anticipated as we discuss common pitfalls and discover ways that God is working through new ministries in Canada and beyond.

This course required for all M.Div. Pioneer Students and an encouraged elective for any Basic Degree Student (especially M.Div. students) not in the Pioneer Stream.

Course Methodology

Lectures, readings, reading report, strategic plan, written reflection, visiting practitioners, case studies

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will be able to	This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> express how pioneering ministry intersects with the Triune God's mission in culture, with specific attention to the Canadian situation; 	Assignment 1	MTS: 1.6 MDiv: 1.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> articulate a biblical and theological rationale for pioneering ministry; 	Assignment 2	MTS: 2.1 MDiv: 2.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> appraise character traits required for leadership in a particular pioneering setting; 	Assignment 3	MTS: 3.3 MDiv: 2.4, 3.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine the characteristics of a church planting or fresh expression model most appropriate for a current pioneering opportunity; 	Assignment 4	MTS: 2.3 MDiv: 2.2, 2.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess, through a theological reflection model, how indicators of success/failure are identified in a particular pioneer ministry 	Assignment 4	MTS: 2.3 MDiv: 2.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> design a strategic plan for a proposed new church plant or fresh expression of church 	Assignment 4	MTS: 3.3 MDiv: 2.3, 2.4, 3.3

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- John Bowen (ed.), *Green Shoots Out of Dry Ground: Growing a New Future for the Church in Canada*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2013.
- Michael Moynagh, *Church for Every Context: An Introduction to Theology and Practice*. London: SCM, 2012.

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (September 11) Introduction to Course -- A Church Planting Story

Reading: *Church for Every Context*, Part 1: Chapters 1, 2 (text); *Green Shoots*, chapters 1, 2, 3, (text)

Week 2 (September 18) "Discipleship in a Context of Consumerism and Technique" – Canadian situation

Reading: *Green Shoots*, Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Week 3 (September 25) What is a Fresh Expression?

Reading: *Green Shoots*, Chapter 9, 10, 11, 12.

Week 4 (October 2) "Theology of Church Planting and Biblical Rationale"

Reading: *Green Shoots*, Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16

Beginning of Class: Hand in Assignment One on Green Shoots.

Week 5 (October 9) Thanksgiving Monday, no class.

Week 6 (October 16) "Church Planting and Pioneering Leadership"

Reading: *Church for Every Context*, Part 2: Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6; **Read: Chapters 7-10 to aid in preparation for assignment 2.**

Week 7 (October 23) Reading Week.

Week 8 (October 30) Church Planting Story -- Guest Lecturer: Active Church Planter

Reading: *Church for Every Context*, Part 3, Chapter 11, 12, 13

Beginning of Class: Hand in Assignment Two.

Week 9 (November 6) "Getting Started: the four key relationships"

"Encountering Failure, When Church Plants Fail to Thrive -- Roadblocks and Common Causes"

Reading: *Church for Every Context*, Chapters 14, 15, 16.

Week 10 (November 13) Guest Lecturer: Denominational Leader/Church Planting Coach

Beginning of Class: Hand in Assignment Three

Week 11 (November 20) "Encountering Success and Failure" Discuss Details of Assignment Four

Reading: *Church for Every Context*, Part 4, Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20

Week 12 (November 27) A New Ministry Takes Shape -- "An Examination of Models"

Week 13 (December 4) "Building a Church Planting Team"; Work on Assignment Four, Strategic Plan.

Week 14 (December 11) “Where do we go from here? Creative Ideas and Evaluation Strategies – Analyzing What is Working (or not) and Why”

By Midnight December 13, Assignment Four, Strategic Plan.

Evaluation

Requirements

1) Assignment One: Reading Report on Green Shoots

Weight: 15%

Due: Week 4, Oct 2, by the beginning of class

Length: 4 pages (approx. 1,000 words)

Description: Do not summarize the book. Provide the thesis and purpose of the book and then interact with three thoughts from the book that are influencing your own understanding of pioneering ministries in Canada. Your reflection should include new insights, practical application points, and areas of critical thought explaining where and why you particularly agree or disagree with that particular author.

2) Assignment Two: Biblical and Theological Rationale for Pioneering Ministries

Weight: 25%

Due: Week 8, October 30, by the beginning of class

Length: 8 pages (approx. 2,000 words)

Description: Using the reading from the textbooks, discussion and class lectures, as well as outside material, provide your own biblical and theological rationale for pioneering ministries. The question you are answering is this: Why is it valid/important/imperative, both biblically and theologically, to start a new ministry or congregation?

3) Assignment Three: Personal Reflection on Leadership Concerns in Pioneering Ministries

Weight: 20%

Due: Week 10, November 13, by the beginning of class

Length: 6 pages (approx. 1,500 words)

Description: What are the leadership concerns specific to pioneering ministry? Based on your reading of *Church for Every Context*, and outside reading, discuss what leadership characteristics are required in a particular pioneering setting. Include why those characteristics are important, potential pitfalls connected with them, and how you can both recognize and develop these leadership traits (in yourself and/or others).

4) Assignment Four: Strategic Plan for a New Church or Fresh Expression of Church

Weight: 40%

Due: midnight December 13 (on Blackboard)

Length: 15 – 20 pages (including charts)

Description: This strategic plan can be for a ministry that your congregation is considering starting or a potential ministry that God has placed upon your heart. Your strategic plan will be for a proposed new church/fresh expression of church and will include but not be limited to these core elements:

- A biblical, theological, and missiological rationale for this project
- The model you propose to use
- The location and boundaries of pioneering area, including statistical support
- Explain where you will locate this ministry and why
- Outline possible team members and potential partners
- Prepare a proposal for this project identifying key challenges including budget, staff, and initial launch team
- Formulate a vision and mission statement for the new ministry including core values and style elements

- Describe and create an intentional systematic process of discipleship and numerical growth and development toward maturity
- Develop an initial strategic plan for a public launch and outline subsequent activities for the first six months.

Each of these areas will require a 1-2 page explanation. Information for this assignment requires investigation using some internet sources and possible inquiries with your denomination or making observations as you walk through a neighbourhood. Ask questions of the visiting guest lecturers and church planters to help you determine what they needed to get started. This assignment will be discussed in greater detail periodically throughout the semester. You will have an initial plan to start a new ministry when you are complete!

5) Class Participation.

Students are expected to attend and participate in each class, demonstrating engagement with assigned readings, and interact with research underway for the final projects.

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may

request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods, St. Paul’s or Ours?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962.

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

- Bevans, Stephen and Roger Schroeder. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2004.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991.
- Fitch, David. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism, and Other Modern Maladies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- Fitch, David and Geoff Holsclaw. *Prodigal Christianity: 10 Signposts into the Missional Frontier*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2013.
- Goheen, Michael. *Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Hastings, Ross. *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-evangelizing the West*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Halter, Hugh and Matt Smay. *The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2008.
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006.
- Hjalmarson, Leonard (ed.). *Text & Context: Church Planting in Canada in Post-Christendom*. Portland: Urban Loft, 2013.
- Johnston, Ron. *Reality Check for the Church: Discovering a Unique Vision for the Small Church*. Winnipeg: Word Alive, 2013.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- McManus, Erwin. *Seizing Your Divine Moment: Dare to Live a Life of Adventure*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006.
- Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Herald Press: Scottsdale and Waterloo, 2001.
- Nebel, Tom. *Church Planting Landmines*. St. Charles, IL: Churchsmart Resources, 2005.
- Newbiggin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Searcy, Nelson and Kerrick Thomas. *Launch: Starting a New Church from Scratch*. Scottsdale: Regal, 2007.
- Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.
- Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2006.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Wright, Christopher. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2006.