



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

Course Identification

Course Number:	WYP2560HF
Course Format:	In-class
Course Name:	Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church
Course Location:	TBD
Class Times:	Mondays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Prerequisites:	None

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Rev. Dr. Sean Davidson
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Office Hours:	By appointment

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 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)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

Course Learning 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)
• 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
• articulate a biblical and theological rationale for pioneering ministry;	Assignment 2	MTS: 2.1 MDiv:2.1
• 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

Evaluation

Requirements

1) Assignment 1: Reading Report on *Green Shoots*

Weight: 15%

Due: Week 4, Oct 1, 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 2: Biblical and Theological Rationale for Pioneering Ministries

Weight: 25%

Due: Week 8, October 29, 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 3: Personal Reflection on Leadership Concerns in Pioneering Ministries

Weight: 20%

Due: Week 10, November 12, 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 4: Strategic Plan for a New Church or Fresh Expression of Church**

Weight: 40%

Due: midnight December 12 (on Blackboard or by email)

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 has captured your interest. 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

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Numerical Equivalents</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>	<i>Grasp of Subject Matter</i>
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

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work. 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/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs 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* and the Graduate program Handbooks (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/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course 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.

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>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1

September 10

Course Introduction

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

Week 2

September 17

God's Mission and the Church

Green Shoots, Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Week 3

September 24

Church and Culture

Green Shoots, Chapter 9, 10, 11, 12.

Volf, “Soft Difference: Theological Reflections on the Relation between Church and Culture in 1 Peter.”

<http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~tim/study/Miroslav%20Volf%201%20Peter.pdf>

Week 4

October 1

Church Planting and Fresh Expressions
Green Shoots, Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
Church for Every Context, Chapters 5 and 6
Assignment 1 Due

Week 5

October 8

Thanksgiving (no class)

Week 6

October 15

Missional Leadership

Week 7

October 22

Reading Week (no class)
**Read chapters Church for Every Context, Part 2, chapters 7-10
to aid in preparation for Assignment 2**

Week 8

October 29

Adventures in Church Planting
Guest Lecturer: John Bowen and Matt Pamplin
Church for Every Context, Part 3, Chapter 11, 12, 13
Assignment 2 Due

Week 9

November 5

The Missional Journey
Church for Every Context, Chapters 14, 15, 16

Week 10

November 12

Denominational Leadership and Missional Coaching
Guest Lecturer: Bishop Susan Bell
Assignment 3 Due

Week 11

November 19

The Challenges of Rebooting
Guest Lecturer: Jeff Potter
Church for Every Context, Part 4, Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20
Discuss Assignment 4

Week 12

November 26

A New Ministry Takes Shape

Week 13

December 3

Church Planting and Team Building
Guest Lecturer: Darryl Dash
Work on Assignment 4

Week 14

December 10

Where Do We Go from Here? Creative Ideas and Evaluation Strategies

Final Assignment

Assignment 4: Strategic Plan

Due December 12 by midnight

Bibliography

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