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:	marilyndraper@gmail.com	E-mail:
Office Hours:		

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

Give the course code and title of any pre-requisite or requisite courses.

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 at little different than you anticipated as we discuss common pitfalls and discover ways that God is working through new ministries in Canada and beyond.

This course is a first year required course for all M.Div. Pioneer Students and an elective choice for any Basic Degree Student especially M.Div. students not in the Pioneer Stream.

Course Methodology

Lectures, readings, reading report, strategic plan, written reflection

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	**This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:**	**This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)**
• will be able to discuss the basis and history of church planting in relation to the Triune God and express how pioneering ministries intersects with God's mission in culture, with specific attention to the Canadian situation;	Lectures, readings Assignment 1	**MTS:** 1.6 **MDiv:**1.6
• will be able to clearly articulate a biblical and theological rationale for pioneering ministries;	Assignment 2	**MTS:** 2.1 **MDiv:**2.1
• will display knowledge of a variety of church planting models and approaches and will be able to articulate the model most appropriate for a current pioneering opportunity;	Assignment 4	**MTS:** 2.3 **MDiv:** 2.2, 2.3
• will understand the importance of servant leadership in a pioneering setting;	Lectures, Assignment 3	**MTS:** 3.3 **MDiv:** 2.4, 3.1
• will understand how various concepts of success affect pioneering ministries positively and negatively;	Lectures, personal reflection	**MTS:** 2.3 **MDiv:** 2.3
• will learn the basis for developing competency in team and partnership building;	Lectures, readings, personal reflection	**MTS:** 3.3 **MDiv:** 2.3, 2.4, 3.3
• will develop 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 12) Introduction to Church Planting and Fresh Expressions – A Story
Reading: Church for Every Context, Part 1: Chapters 1, 2 (text); *Green Shoots*, chapters 1, 2, 3, (text)

Week 2 (September 19) "Discipleship in a Context of Consumerism and Technique" – Canadian situation
Reading: Green Shoots, Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Week 3 (September 26) "Theology of Church Planting"
Reading: Green Shoots, Chapter 9, 10, 11, 12.

Week 4 (October 3) Guest Lecturer: Active Church Planter
Reading: Green Shoots, Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
Beginning of Class: Hand in Assignment One on Green Shoots.

Week 5 (October 10) Thanksgiving Monday, no class.

Week 6 (October 17) "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 24) Reading Week.

Week 8 (October 31) Guest Lecturer: Denominational Leader/Church Planting Coach
Reading: Church for Every Context, Part 3, Chapter 11, 12, 13
Beginning of Class: Hand in Assignment Two.

Week 9 (November 7) "Encountering Failure, When Church Plants Fail to Thrive -- Roadblocks and Common Causes"
Reading: Church for Every Context, Chapters 14, 15, 16.

Week 10 (November 14) Guest Lecturer: Active Ministry Pioneer
Beginning of Class: Hand in Assignment Three

Week 11 (November 21) "What is Success? How Will I Recognize it?" Discuss Details of Assignment Four

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

Week 12 (November 28) "An Examination of Models," Guest Lecturer: Organizing a Church Re-Boot

Week 13 (December 5) "Building a Church Planting Team"; Work on Assignment Four, Strategic Plan.

Week 14 (December 12) "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**: October 3, 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**: October 31, 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**: November 14, at the beginning of class
> **Length**: 6 pages (approx. 1,500 words)

Description: Are there leadership concerns specific to pioneering ministry? Based on your reading of *Church for Every Context*, discuss leadership concerns that you are facing or will expect to face in a pioneering ministry context. Discuss practical concerns and any personal issues that will assist you or be potential pitfalls. (You may make reference to *Green Shoots*, lectures, or outside reading as well).

4) Assignment Four: Strategic Plan for a New Church or Fresh Expression of Church
> **Weight:** 40%
> **Due:** midnight December 13 (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 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 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 and unassigned reading, the topic under discussion, and research underway for the final project.

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.

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