1. Course Description:
A study of church growth and renewal dynamics from a biblical, theological, historical, and cultural perspective. Topics include church growth and renewal principles, typologies, and methodologies, with attention to the roles of prayer, worship, preaching, teaching, fellowship, and evangelism in church growth and renewal. (4 semester hours)

2. Co-requisite Course:
This course is a co-requisite with DM 7076 Applied Ministry Experience in Church Growth and Revitalization.

3. Course Objectives:
The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Discuss the history of the church growth movement and its impact on the modern day church.
- Analyze and discuss the spiritual components of church revitalization and church growth, such as prayer and worship.
- Appraise various techniques for mobilizing and organizing a church for effective evangelism.
- Identify the components for establishing an effective process of assimilation.
- Analyze and design a plan for an effective discipling program in the local church.
- Understand the various mechanical and structural barriers that can impede natural church growth.
- Demonstrate effective communication skills required in ministry today.
4. Course Texts

Required Texts: All students must read the required books.


Additional Reading: Students should complete a total of 2,000 pages of reading, including the three required texts, by the beginning of the seminar. This total should include at least one text from each of the following categories.

Read at Least One of the Following: Historical:

Read at Least Two of the Following: Spiritual


Read at Least One of the Following: Revitalization


Read at Least One of the Following: Evangelism


Read At Least One of the Following: Assimilation


Read At Least One of the Following: Discipleship/Teaching


Read At Least One of the Following: Miscellaneous


5. **Course Requirements:**

   **Pre-Seminar Assignments:**

   1. Write a five to seven page essay on Thom Rainer’s *The Book of Church Growth: History, Theology and Principles*. You must demonstrate that you understand the history, the theology, and the principles of the modern church growth movement. Site specific references from your reading with appropriate footnotes.

   2. Select one of the books from the additional reading list and write a five page review following standard guidelines provided by NGU. Contact Dr. Hemphill (ken.hemphill@ngu.edu) with your book choice. Only one student may review a book. Each student will present a 10 minute report on their book. Let me know the category and the book you have chosen.

   3. Prepare a fifteen page paper on one of the topics listed below. Follow the NGU guidelines for writing. Each student should be prepared to make a 20 minute presentation including a one page handout outlining the main ideas of the presentation. Contact Dr. Hemphill to give him your top two choices. He will notify you which topic has been assigned to you.

      ➢ The history of the church growth movement.
      ➢ Strengths and weaknesses of the church growth movement.
      ➢ Factors effecting church revitalization.
      ➢ The role of preaching in church growth or revitalization.
      ➢ The role of prayer and worship in church growth or revitalization.
Steps to revitalization.

Plans for building an evangelism strategy for the local church.

The keys to effective assimilation.

The role of Sunday school/small groups in church growth.

Improving teaching in the local church.

Strategy for an effective discipling strategy for the local church.

Developing a missional mindset in the church.

Strategy for implementing an Acts 1:8 missional strategy.

The role of leadership in church growth.

The strengths and weaknesses of the homogeneous principle.

The multi-site church.

The strengths and weakness of the contemporary models of church growth.

Factors that lead to stagnancy in the local church.

Church growth strategies that could lead to theological compromise.

The strengths and weakness of age-grading in Sunday school/small groups.

4. **Case Study:** Write a five-page case study of a significant church growth/revitalization process in which you have participated. Evaluate its effectiveness or lack thereof.

**In-class Assignments:**

Be prepared to participate in-class discussion and be ready to make your presentation following the schedule provided in “Course Content” on blackboard.
5. **Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay on History, Theology, and Principles of Church Growth</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review and Presentation</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study Essay</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Grade Scale**

Grading Scale for this Course:

- 91 to 100    A
- 81 to 90     B
- 71 to 80     C
- 61 to 70     D
- 60 or Below  F

6. **Classroom Etiquette**

Cell phones, smart phones, and other e-mail devices should be turned off during class. Students are not to take calls during class or leave class to take a call. Calls should be taken and returned during breaks.

When wireless internet access is available, students should not use their computers to surf the internet or check email during class. Internet searches should only be conducted as part of the class discussion or process.

Business casual is the appropriate dress for class.