

Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University

THS 633: Church Planting Theology

Dale Little, Ph.D.
Fall - 2016
3 credit hours
Prerequisite: THS 571

dale@tokyolittles.net
Course Dates: Sep – Dec
Class days and times: Wed 6:00-8:00 pm PST

Note: this course will be delivered online with a live-stream component in which students participate through interactive online video-streaming of class sessions. Please see a more detailed description with guidelines and participation requirements in the Live-Streamed Courses appendix at the end of this syllabus.

I. Course Description

Literature on church planting is abundant, but can largely be classified as practical in the sense that it is characterized by case studies, development of strategies, goal setting, demographic surveys, church planting project reports, etc. Although such study is important, this course instead emphasizes theological reflection upon church planting. This reflection will require reading and critically interacting with theological source material for the purpose of integrating that material with issues encountered in church planting. The theological source material is taken from the fields of biblical theology, systematic theology, and missiology. The integration of theology with church planting praxis will build upon issues either raised in the practical literature about church planting or, in appropriate cases, upon the church planting experiences of the student. Although church planting experience is not a prerequisite for this course, at least one year of theological study is required.

II. Learning Outcomes

The purpose of the course is to think theologically about church planting. By the end of the course it is hoped that students...

- will be motivated and competent to identify and evaluate the theological bases or presuppositions of various church planting projects and issues; and

- will be able to use their particular theological understanding to develop their own theologically sound church planting strategies and projects.

III. Course Textbooks

Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Scottdale, Pa: Harald Press, 2001. (Cambria, U.K.: Paternoster, 1998).

Ott, Craig, and Gene Wilson. *Global Church Planting: Biblical Principles and Best Practices for Multiplication*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

IV. Course Assignments

The assignments cover material falling within three categories: (1) Theological material relevant to church planting; (2) Practical material dealing with church planting (e.g., case studies, reports, strategies, etc.); and (3) Integrative work, bringing together the theological and practical aspects of church planting.

(1) Assignments in the first category are: (a) Read both required books (700 pages). (b) Read a minimum of 300 pages of additional material selected by the student. Selections may be taken from the reading lists below. Alternatively, students may choose their own reading materials not listed below. In this case, however, the professor must approve the selections. (c) Write a 900 word response to one of the books read in step (a) or (b) above. About half of the response should be accurate content summary and the remaining half should be critical integration of theology with church planting.

(2) Assignments in the second category follow two tracks. Track one is for students with church planting experience. Track two is for students without church planting experience. In each track students must read at least three articles or chapters (minimum 50 pages) dealing with practical problems encountered in church planting. This reading material is to be selected by the student but approved by the instructor.

Track one assignment for students with church planting experience: Write a 300 word case study from your church planting experience which is related to issues in the practical material just read. The purpose of the case study is to present a problem you have encountered in church planting. The case study should not include an answer to the problem. The professor will select some of these case studies to discuss in class. The discussion will focus upon thinking theologically about the church planting issues raised in the case studies.

Track two assignment for students without church planting experience: Write a 300 word response to one church planting problem described in the practical material just read. The response should consist of a description of the problem and a suggested answer to the problem.

(3) The assignment in the third category is an integrative paper. Write a paper of about 3500 words describing your theological reflections about church planting. This paper must adhere to Turabian style. You should identify a paper topic as early as possible so the readings you choose can help you develop your paper. Paper topics must be approved by the professor. You may use issues that have surfaced in either your own church planting experience or in this class. If you wrote a case study in the preceding step you may reflect theologically about it in your paper. Because this is intended to be a theological paper, limit your practical writing to about 10% of the paper. This should be adequate space to describe the practical issue your paper will theologically address. The first draft of the paper must be sent to the professor by e-mail two weeks before the last day of semester exams. One week later the graded paper with comments will be returned to the student by e-mail. If desired, students may submit a second draft of their paper by e-mail by the end of semester exams. This second draft should reflect the professor's suggestions. If a second draft is submitted to the instructor, it may improve the student's grade, but not necessarily so. The integrative paper will be evaluated in light of the following assumption: *because any theological thinking about church planting is better than none at all, such thinking should be encouraged by providing significant positive reinforcement.*

V. Course Schedule

Lecture and Forum Topics	Lecture Hours	DATES Wed PST 6-8pm	DATES Thu JST 10am-12pm	Forum Hours (Fri)	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
1. Theology and Church Planting (CP)	1	Sep 7	Sep 8		
2. Biblical Theology and CP	1	Sep 7	Sep 8		
2.1 CP in Luke-Acts	2	Sep 14	Sep 15		Reading record #1 (case study, 50pp)
2.2 CP in Pauline Context I (Paul as Theologian)	2	Sep 21	Sep 22		Reading record #2 (Murray, 300pp)
2.3 CP in Pauline Context II (Paul as Church Founder)	2	Sep 28	Sep 29		Case study or response to practical reading (300 words)
<i>Online Forum: Case Studies</i>				6 hrs (Sep 30)	Present own case study and respond to other students.
3. Systematic Theology and CP	1	Oct 5	Oct 6		
3.1 CP in Ecclesiological Context	2	Oct 5	Oct 6		Reading record #3 (Ott & Wilson, 400pp)
3.2 CP in the Soteriological Context of Postmodern Religious Plurality	2	Oct 12	Oct 13		Reading record #4 (selected reading, 300pp)
3.3 CP in Trinitarian Context	2	Oct 19	Oct 20		Book review (900 words)
3.4 CP in the Context of Theological Anthropology	2	Nov 2	Nov 3		
<i>Online Forum: Paper Topics</i>				4 hrs (Nov 4)	Present own paper topic and interact with other students.

Lecture and Forum Topics	Lecture Hours	DATES Wed PST 6-8pm	DATES Thu JST 11am-1pm	Forum Hours (Fri)	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
4. Missiology and CP	1	Nov 9	Nov 10		
4.1 CP in Intercultural Context	2	Nov 9, Nov 23	Nov 10, Nov 24		Integrative paper (3500 words). Optional 2 nd draft by end of exams.
	20 hrs	10 classes		10 hrs	

Lectures are live streamed Wednesdays 6-8pm Pacific Standard Time. This is equivalent to Thursday 10am - 12pm Japan Standard Time before Nov 6 when daylight savings time changes in most places in North America and 11am - 1pm JST after Nov 6. Online forum discussion is to be completed by the Friday of the student's time zone.

VI. Course Grade Determination

There is no exam in this course. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of the class meetings is required for a passing grade. The chart below reflects the intent of the course in that 70% of what is evaluated (that is, theological material and the integrative paper) concerns the theological nature of the course.

Points	Item of Evaluation	Track 1 Points (Students with CP experience)	Track 2 Points (Students without CP experience)
30	Mostly Theological Material		
	Required Reading (700 pp.)	10	10
	Selected Reading (300 pp.)	5	5
	Book Review (900 [450 + 450] words)	15	15
15	Practical Material		
	Reading (50 pp.)	5	5
	Track 1: Case study (300 words)	10	x
	Track 2: Response to reading (300 words)	x	10
35	Integrative Paper (3500 words)	35	35
20	Class and Forum Participation	20	20
100		Maximum: 100	Maximum: 100

The following grade scale will be used:

First Class	Second Class	Pass
A+ = 100-97	B+ = 89-85	C+ = 74-70
A = 96-93	B = 84-80	C = 69-65
A- = 92-90	B- = 79-75	C- = 64-60

VII. Course Reading Lists (See section III for required reading.)

Entries in the lists below were selected on the basis of their actual or potential theological interaction with church planting issues. In many cases only part of the selected entry is relevant.

A. Recommended Reading: full text articles available online at TWU library

- Bowers, Paul. 1987. "Fulfilling the Gospel: The Scope of the Pauline Mission." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 30, No. 2: 185-198.
- _____. 1991. "Church and Mission in Paul." *Journal for the Study of New Testament* 44: 89-111.
- Cho, Paul H. 2010. "Between Edinburgh 1910-2010: Changing Theological Views of Mission." *Modern Believing* 51, No. 3: 16-24.
- Hibbert, Richard Yates. 2009. "The Place of Church Planting in Mission: Towards a Theological Framework." *Evangelical Review of Theology* 33, No. 4: 316-331.
- Hiebert, Paul G. 1991. "Planting Churches in North America Today." *Direction* 20, No. 2: 6-14.
- King, Fergus J. 2011. "King Mission-Shaped or Paul-Shaped?." *Journal of Anglican Studies* 9, No. 2: 223-246.
- Massey, John D. 2012. "Wrinkling Time in the Missionary Task: A Theological Review of Church Planting Movements Methodology." *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 55, No. 1: 100-137.
- Mattson, Daniel L. 1995. "Church Planting through Leadership Formation." *Missio Apostolica* 3, No. 2: 79-84.
- Nickel, Tim. 2005. "Luke 10 Strategy for Village Church Planting." *Missio Apostolica* 13, No. 1: 43-48.
- Pankratz, James N, and Jim Holm. 1991. "Two Responses to Paul Hiebert: 'Planting Churches in North America today'." *Direction* 20, No. 2: 15-20.
- Peterson, Brian K. 2008. "Being the Church in Philippi." *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 30, No. 2: 163-178.
- Prill, Thorsten. 2009. "Migration, Mission and the Multi-Ethnic church." *Evangelical Review of Theology* 33, No. 4: 332-346.
- Schulze, Dietmar W. 2007. "Mortar and Stones: Biblical Principles for Planting and Building Strong Community Churches in Any Culture." *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 49, No. 2: 168-184.
- Stern, Irven F, and Pattie Stern. 1991. "Leadership Recruitment and Development for Church Planting." *Brethren Life and Thought* 36, No. 3: 210-217.
- Vajko, Robert J. 2010. "Church Planting in the 21st Century." *Ogbomoso Journal of Theology* 15, No. 1: 119-146.

B. Recommended Reading: not available online at TWU library

- Chester, Tim and Steve Timmis. *Total Church: A Radical Reshaping Around Gospel and Community*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008.
- Hesselgrave, David. "Essential Elements of Church Planting and Growing in the 21st Century." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 36, No. 1 (Jan 2000): 24-32.

- _____. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical and Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.
- Kirk, Andrew. *The Mission of Theology and Theology as Mission*. Valley Forge, Penn.: Trinity Press International, 1997.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J. and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.
- Little, Dale W. "Thinking Theologically About Church Planting." <http://www.itheology.net/cpttheo/>. (Quarterly column in *Japan Harvest*, 2002 to 2007).
- O'Brien, P. T. *Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul: An Exegetical and Theological Analysis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- Plummer, Robert L. and John Mark Terry. *Paul's Missionary Methods: In His Time and Ours*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012.
- Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom of God: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale, Penn.: Herald Press, 1988.
- Stone, Howard W. and James O. Duke. *How to Think Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.
- Timmis, Stephen, ed. *Multiplying Churches: Reaching Today's Communities Through Church Planting*. UK: Christian Focus, 2003.
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Volf, Miroslav. *After our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

C. Other Reading

- Amberson, Talmadge R., ed. *The Birth of Churches: A Biblical Basis for Church Planting*. Nashville : Broadman, 1979
- Boydston, Bradley Leigh. "Getting Started: Foundations for Church Planting in the Evangelical Covenant Church and a Church Planting Handbook for Laypeople." D.Min. diss., Fuller, 1993.
- Brock, Charles. *The Principles and Practice of Indigenous Church Planting*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.
- Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Wheaton: Tyndale, 1991.
- Dollar, Harold. *St. Luke's Missiology*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1996.
- Gardner, Harry George. "A Home Mission Board Strategy for Church Planting in the Atlantic United Baptist Convention." D.Min. diss. Fuller, 1993.
- Glasser, Arthur F. "The Evolution of Evangelical Mission Theology since World War II." *Evangelical Review of Theology* 11: 53-64.
- Graham, Steven Douglas. "Starting Healthy Churches; Wagner's Seven Vital Signs Applied to Church Planting." D.Min. diss., Fuller, 1991.

- Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.
- Hesselgrave, David. *Planting Churches Cross Culturally: A Guide for Home and Foreign Missions*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.
- _____. *Scripture and Strategy: The Use of the Bible in Postmodern Church and Mission*. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library, 1994.
- _____. "Brian McLaren's Contextualization of the Gospel." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 43 (January 2007): 92-100.
- Hiebert, Paul. G. "The Missionary as Mediator of Global Theologizing." In *Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practise in an Era of World Christianity*, ed. Craig Ott and Harold A. Netland, 288-308. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.
- Kingdon, David P. "Church Planting in the New Testament." *Searching Together* 13 (Summer 1984): 16-21.
- MacDonald, John, A. "New Structures for Cross-Cultural Church Planting." *Sewanee Theological Review* 37 (1994): 381-98.
- May, Flavius Joseph. "The Book of Acts and Church Growth." D.Min. diss., Fuller, 1989.
- McKain, Larry Dale. "Leadership in Church Planting." D.Min. diss., Fuller, 1993.
- Ott, Craig. "Conclusion: Globalizing Theology." In *Globalizing Theology: Belief and Practise in an Era of World Christianity*, ed. Craig Ott and Harold A. Netland, 309-36. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.
- _____. "Matching the Church Planter's Role with the Church Planting Model." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 37 (July 2001): 338-344.
- Plummer, Robert L. "Imitation of Paul and the Church's Missionary Role in 1 Corinthians." *JETS* 44 (June 2001): 219-235.
- Richardson, Kim Leslie. "Sponsoring New and Growing churches: Helping Local Churches Fulfill the Great Commission Through Church Planting." D.Min. diss., Fuller, 1992.
- Rommen, Edward. "Church Planting: Theory and Practice." *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 20 (October 1984): 387-89.
- Savage, Kenneth Wayne. "A Biblically Based Model for Church Planting in Cancun, Mexico." D.Min. diss., Oral Roberts University, 1991.
- Sawatsky, Ben A. "A Team Approach to Church Planting in World Class Cities." D.Miss. diss., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 1988.
- Scott, Waldron. "Karl Barth's Theology of Mission." *Missiology* 3: 209-24.
- Senior, Donald and Carroll Stuhlmueller. *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1983.
- Shenk, Wilbert R., ed. *The Transfiguration of Mission: Biblical, Theological and Historical Foundations*. Herald Press, 1993.
- Stackhouse, John G., ed. *Evangelical Ecclesiology: Reality or Illusion?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
- Towns, Elmer L. *Getting a Church Started: A Theological and Practical Manual for Those Who Would Plant a Church*. Lynchburg, Virginia: Privately printed, 1982.
- _____. "The Relationship of Church Growth and Systematic Theology." *JETS* 29: 63-70.
- Trites, Allison A. "Church Growth in the Book of Acts." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 145: 162-73.
- Van Engen, Charles. *The Growth of the True Church: An Analysis of the Ecclesiology of Church Growth Theory*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1981.