SELECTED TOPICS IN MISSIONS:

CHURCH PLANTING

MISS 312
MISS 521

Winter Term

January 12-16, 2009

Dr. Fiodor V. Baraniuk, Instructor (fiodor01@comcast.net)

Class meets: 8:00AM - 5:00 PM

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

SCOPE OF THE COURSE

A. This course will take an in-depth look at the most effective church planting models being practiced today, with a special emphasis on the small group based model. One of the primary goals will be to discover common church planting principles that can be applied in a wide variety of contexts. The class also will highlight characteristics of effective church planters as well as evaluate church planting pitfalls to avoid. While focusing on the current church planting scene, the course will begin by laying the Biblical foundation for church planting from a New Testament perspective.

B. This course is also of a practical study concerning planting churches in the unique setting of North America. The methods, rationale, and practical steps of planting new churches will be examined. The involvement of the BMA of America Missions Department in church planting will be discussed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To initiate the ministry of church planting
2. To show that there are ministry alternatives to the traditional churches
3. To demonstrate that church planting is the most effective evangelistic method known
4. To show the overwhelming need of starting new churches in North America
5. To show basic methods of church planting
COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND READING

A. Required.


B. Recommended


**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Class attendance:**

   Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all class sessions. Due to the nature of the course missed sessions cannot be made up, and the student’s presence in class will enable them to get the most of the experience.

2. **Pre-course work**

   - Read the three required textbooks before January 12, 2009 (first day of class).
   - Send the professor (fiodor01@comcast.net) an interactive review:
Two (8 ½ x 11 inch) pages. Text may be single spaced but must be at least 12 pitch (elite type). One inch margins should provided on all sides of paper.

At the top of the first page, indicate your name and state the facts of publication of the book in standard bibliographic form.

The first half of the first page presents the message, or burden of the book. The message should be stated in terms sympathetic to the author and without explicit or implicit critique.

The second half of the first page presents an evaluation of the book. Identify the strong points of the material (what did you like about it?), the weaknesses you observed, why these strengths/weaknesses are important, and recommend who should (or should not) read this book.

The second page is to reflect on the book. What lessons can be learned from this author? How were your views confirmed? How have you changed as a result of reading this book? What do you want to do differently (or help your church or mission do differently) in the future?

3. Course work

• **Quizzes:** Review class notes and book (s) each night in preparation for a quiz at the beginning of class on Tuesday through Thursday.
  
  o Monday review book for Tuesday quiz: *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*.
  
  o Tuesday review book for Wednesday quiz: *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*
  
  o Wednesday review book for Thursday quiz: *Church without Walls*
  
  o Thursday review lecture notes for Friday exam

• **Exam:** Review entire class lecture notes for exam on Friday

4. Post-course work for MISS 312 students.

• **Reflection Paper:** Write a 6-8 page reflection paper on how you plan to use what you have learned in this class in your present or future ministry.

• **Project:** Do a case study of a church plant that has taken place in the last two years (8-10 pages)
5. Post-course work for MISS 512 students.  
Attention MDiv students (this should be different than in #4):

- Conduct a Church Planter Interview. Interview (in person or by phone) a pastor who has planted a church within the last two years. Sample questions to get you started:

  - Was there a specific strategy/philosophy/model that guided your church plant?
  - If you were starting over today, what would you do the same?
  - In an ideal world, what would you do differently?
  - What was the most difficult thing you encountered during the process?
  - What was the most unexpected thing you encountered during the process?
  - What help did you need that you wished you would have had?
  - What role did your spouse/family play in the process? Any suggestions for involving families, or helping them through the process?
  - What did you learn from your church planting experience?
  - What was/is your favorite part about your church planting experience?
  - What resources or books were the most helpful to you in the process?
  - What words of advice would you give to prospective church planters?

- Reflect on the highlights of this interview in a 5-7 page report.
• *Journal article review*. Each MDiv student will read **two** journal articles related to latest trends in Church Planting.

**NOTE:**

Post-course assignments are due postmarked **three** to **four** weeks after the last day of class. Send your work directly to the professor (e.g., it’s a good idea to e-mail CIU that you have sent the professor the work for confirmation). If you would like your work returned to you, please provide the professor with a stamped, self-addressed large envelope.

**Address:**

Fiodor Baraniuk  
10176 Lazy Creek Drive  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

**GRADE DEVELOPMENT:**

A. All work must be submitted to the satisfaction of the instructor in order to pass the course

B. *Aspects in determining the final grade*

- Book reports (pre-course) 15%
- Quizzes in class 20%
- Exam in class (course) 20%
- Participation in class (course) 5%
- Reflection paper (post-course) 20%
- Project (post-course) 20%

C. *For MDiv students*

- Book reports (pre-course) 15%
- Quizzes in class 20%
- Exam in class (course) 20%
- Participation in class (course) 5%
- Reflection paper (post-course) 5%
- Project (post-course) 15%
- Interview (post-course) 15%
- Journal Articles (post-course) 5%

D. *Standards for evaluating certain grades*
• **Book reports**: evidence that the student has read and wrestled with the concepts in the book.

• **Exams and quizzes**: multiple choices, true-false, brief essay.

• **Participation in course**: students are to be in each class on time and to participate in the discussion. This participation might include debate on the topic.

• **Reflection paper**: evidence that the student has wrestled with how he will use the ideas taught in the course in a practical ministry situation. To have a well-thought out application is must thing.

• **Project**:
  
  o **The case study**: evidence of analytical skills in doing a brief case study of an existing church plant. I’m looking for accurate background statistics and especially the student’s evaluation of the church planting situation.

  o **The interview**: It will be evaluated whether or not the student has gathered the appropriate information, thought through the church planting strategy of a church start, and presented envisioned desired results.

**PROJECTED COURSE SEQUENCE**:

**MONDAY**

• The Basics of church planting
  
  o The definition of church planting
  
  o Why we need new churches

• Biblical foundations for planting new churches

• Key church planting principles

**TUESDAY**

• Common pitfalls in church planting
• Leadership qualities of church planters
  
  o Evaluation (gifts, skills, etc.)
  
  o Preparation

• The context of church planting (dissecting culture)

• Common strategies for church planting

**WEDNESDAY**

• Common strategies for church planting (continued)

• Step-by-step preparation to plant a church
• The birth date for church planting—how many are necessary to go public

THURSDAY

• Multiplication of members, leaders, small groups, and churches
• House church planting and cell church planting
• The nuts and bolts of cell church planting

FRIDAY

• Churches planting churches
• Church planting movements
• Final exam

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, content outline, objectives, grading scale, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that change during the semester.