



Course Syllabus

LMSS 404 – Church Growth and Church Planting 3 Credit hours

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Course explores the facets of Church growth and Church Planting with several examples challenging students to formulate their own foundations to fit a variety of cultural settings. To encourage students to be aware of the latest dynamics of philosophical presuppositions that influence our worldview.

Prerequisites: None

II. ACADEMIC MISSION

Oral Roberts University's academic mission is to transform students by the power of the Holy Spirit into whole, competent servant-leaders through liberal arts and professional education that is fully Christian. Within a Spirit-filled healing community, administration, faculty, and staff love and serve students by helping them grow in knowledge, skills, wisdom, character, and spirit. Student transformation is measured through the evaluation of student expression of University learning outcomes as demonstrated through the following outcomes.

- 1 Spiritual Integrity
- 2 Personal Resilience
- 3 Intellectual Pursuit
- 4 Global Engagement
- 5 Bold Vision

The last page of this syllabus, "COURSE INVENTORY for ORU's Course Objectives," indicates how this course supports ORU's academic mission and ORU's whole-person approach to learning outcomes.

III. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The Undergraduate Theology Department equips students with a Spirit-filled education in biblical, historical-theological, and pastoral studies in order to develop effective Christian leadership in the Church and global society. This course supports the program outcomes of the Bachelor of Science in Church Ministries major, minors, the Evangelism and Missions minor, the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry and Leadership (Evangelism and Outreach concentration) and the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry and Leadership (Local Church Pastor concentration) marked below in **bold text** and with an asterisk (*).

1. **Students will use critical thinking and writing skills in the context of ministry in the local church.***

2. Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to ethical principles of church operations.*
3. Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to evangelism and outreach ministries.*
4. Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to discipleship and evangelism in a local community.*
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the context of church organization and function.*
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the context of church organization and community development.*

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goal of this course is to prepare students for church leadership by examining church growth and church planting philosophies, methods and approaches. It provides background and understanding of the biblical meaning of “church” as well as comparison of various models for church growth and church planting intended to allow the student to develop their own approach.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each Course Objective notes the level of [Bloom's Taxonomy \(BL\)](#) at which it will be measured.

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Understand the concept of missional leadership and missional church in Church Growth and church planting by discerning what it is, and why it matters. (BL2)
- 2) Analyze Church Growth and church planting methodologies in a missional manner that is biblically sound (BL3)
- 3) Develop a church planting proposal in keeping with missional leadership philosophy (BL4)

VI. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Before you purchase your required textbook(s), click on the ORU Bookstore link to verify whether digital texts are provided as part of your Follett ACCESS course fee. <http://www.bkstr.com/oralrobertsstore/home>

Required Materials

Textbook:

Cole, Neil (2010). *Church 3.0: upgrades for the future of the church*. San Francisco: Josey Bass. [ISBN-978-0-470-52945-4]

Griffith, Jim and Easum, Bill (2008). *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by New Church Starts*. St. Louis: Chalice Press. [Digital ISBN: 9780827236578]

Stetzer, Ed and Im, Daniel (2016). *Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply, second edition*. Nashville: B&H Academic. [ISBN-978-1-4336-9216-1]

Optional Materials

Textbooks:

None.

Other Course Materials:

None

VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. **Plagiarism:** The ORU Catalog explicitly addresses the issue of plagiarism. Make sure you know [ORU's policy on plagiarism](#) and [what is considered plagiarism](#).
2. **Privacy:** By law, students are entitled to privacy regarding their records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended and available in the [ORU University Catalog](#), sets forth requirements designed to protect the privacy of student education records. The law governs access to records maintained by educational institutions and the release of information from those records.
3. **Whole Person Assessment Requirements:**
 - a. Specify which, if any, Whole Person Assessment requirements there are for this course.
None for this course.

B. School and/or Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Participation:** Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, and all other course activities count as your attendance in the course. Lack of participation can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. **Class Assignments**
 - a. Students need to have the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
 - b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.
3. **Late Work**
 - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and materials, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. The professor may not accept late work, or it may result in a lower grade. Computer or Internet malfunctions do not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it completed, edited, and proofread prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
 - b. Generally, assignments missed from a serious sickness or family crises can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work.
4. **Incompletes**

On rare occasions, the grade of "I" may be given for work that is incomplete at the time grades are given. It is given only after the instructor and the department chair or college dean approve a petition submitted by the student that his or her work is incomplete for good cause. Good cause typically consists of a catastrophic event in which the student is prevented from completing the course requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition through <http://petitions.oru.edu>, make up any incomplete work, and ask the instructor to submit a grade change to the registrar. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent session, the incomplete will automatically convert to an "F." For graduating seniors, the degree will be awarded in the term that the student completes his or her course work, not the final term of enrollment.
5. **Citations**

Textbook(s) and materials for the course are listed using standard [citation style](#) (APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, etc.). Since other styles may be used in disciplines other than the one used in this course or school, the [ORU Citing and Documenting Sources](#) pages offer a collection of styles students may choose from. This course asks that students be consistent in whatever style they use throughout the course.

C. Online Programs Policies and Procedures

1. **Learning Community:** Online learning community is established through active participation in the threaded weekly discussions. The mutual exchange of ideas, information, and experiences is an essential part of the learning process, and students are encouraged to use the discussion forum as virtual classroom platform.
2. **ADA and Students with Disabilities:**
 - Click here (<http://www.brightspace.com/about/accessibility/>) to view Desire2Learn's "Accessibility Resources for Students with Disabilities."
 - Students requiring Disability Services from ORU, please click here: <https://goo.gl/QGoK4x>
 - Desire2Learn (D2L) Accessibility Guidelines and Checklist: <https://goo.gl/Ck4RwY>
 - D2L Accessibility Policy: <https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/>
3. **Useful Links for Online Students:**
 - [Student Learning Glossary](#)
 - Library: <http://library.oru.edu/>.
 - D2L Helpdesk: d2lhelp@oru.edu
 - I.T. Student Helpdesk: studenthelpdesk@oru.edu
 - [Netiquette and Online Discussions](#): <https://goo.gl/f744AY>
 - Contact the University: please [fill out this online form](#). Please first contact your instructor for assistance with any matter specific to the course.

D. Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Evaluation Procedures:** The final grade will be based on forum discussions, comparison charts, and projects. The weight of each item is included in the Course Calendar. Extra credit items are not offered in this course

Grade Weight	Category
35%	Forum Discussions
65%	Projects

2. **Evaluation Procedure:**
A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below.
3. **Other Policies and/or Procedures**
None

VIII. COURSE CALENDAR

The Course Calendar shows the specific learning activities and assessments for this course, along with their respective grade weights. The far right column lists the Course Objectives (CO) that support the corresponding Assessment in column 2. Further descriptions for activities and assessments are in their respective weeks in D2L. When applicable, ¥ Indicates this is a Whole Person Assessment item that is also submitted to the E-Portfolio system. † indicates this is a faith integration item tracked by the program.

Week 1	The Church's Foundation	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	8	--	--
	Forum 1: What is a Church?	4	5%	1
	Project 1: The Church in Culture	4	3%	2
Week 2	Church Growth Thinking	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	8	--	--
	Forum 2: What Causes a Church to Grow?	4	5%	2
	Project 2: History of Church Growth Movement	4	7%	2
Week 3	Transforming Lives	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	4	--	--
	Forum 3: The Purpose of Discipleship	4	5%	1
	Project 3: Church Growth Philosophy	8	15%	1
Week 4	Missional Churches	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	8	--	--
	Forum 4: What is a Missional Church?	4	5%	1
	Project 4: Church Growth Approaches	4	4%	2
Week 5	Church Planting Models	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	9	--	--
	Forum 5: Models, Strategies and Approaches	4	5%	2
	Project 5: Church Planting Models	3	4%	2
Week 6	Cultivating the Ground	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	8	--	--
	Forum 6: Mega Churches in Context	4	5%	2
	Project 6: Church Site Research	4	10%	2
Week 7	Church Planting Proposal	Hours	Weight	CO
	Read/View/Listen	4	--	--
	Forum 7: New Ministry Planning	4	5%	3
	Project 7: Church Planting Proposal	8	22%	3
Course Total	Total estimated hours based upon an average of 16 hours per week for 7 weeks	113	100%	

IX. COURSE INVENTORY

LMSS 404 – Church Growth and Church Planting

This inventory indicates the extent to which this Course's Objectives contribute to the Outcomes of its degree Program, and ultimately to one or more of ORU's University Outcomes (in grey below):

- **Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.
- **Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.
- **Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

OUTCOMES	Significant	Moderate	Minimal
1. Spiritual Integrity			
Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to ethical principles of church operations.			X
• Course Objective 1: Understand the concept of missional leadership and missional church in Church Growth and church planting by discerning what it is, and why it matters.			X
• Course Objective 3: Develop a church planting proposal in keeping with missional leadership philosophy			X
2. Personal Resilience			
3. Intellectual Pursuit			
Students will use critical thinking and writing skills in the context of ministry in the local church.		X	
Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to ethical principles of church operations.		X	
Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to evangelism and outreach ministries.		X	
Students will apply working knowledge of Christian principles to discipleship and evangelism in a local community.		X	
Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the context of church organization and function.		X	
Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the context of church organization and community development.		X	
• Course Objective 1: Understand the concept of missional leadership and missional church in Church Growth and church planting by discerning what it is, and why it matters.		X	
• Course Objective 2: Analyze Church Growth and church planting methodologies in a missional manner that is biblically sound (BL3)		X	
• Course Objective 3: Develop a church planting proposal in keeping with missional leadership philosophy		X	
4. Global Engagement			
5. Bold Vision			
Students will use critical thinking and writing skills in the context of ministry in the local church.		X	
• Course Objective 3: Develop a church planting proposal in keeping with missional leadership philosophy		X	

© Oral Roberts University, All Rights Reserved.

This syllabus is subject to change without notice up until the first day of the semester.

Oral Roberts University, 7777 S. Lewis Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74171

E-mail: online@oru.edu | Web site: <http://www.oru.edu>