COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to Church Growth is a basic survey of the terminology, principles, and methodology of the Church Growth school of thought. The course deals with both theoretical and practical aspects of strategies designed to win people to Jesus Christ and to establish growing and healthy churches throughout the world both from the beginnings of the movement to modern application. The majority of the learning will come from class lecture and will utilize power point, notes, guest speakers, and small group discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To define the meaning of church growth
2. To establish the biblical basis for church growth.
3. To understand the background of the church growth movement.
4. To apply basic principles of the church growth movement to the modern church.
5. To research modern churches that have seen significant numerical and spiritual growth and apply these churches practices to one’s own ministry.
REQUIRED TEXTS:

Thom Rainer, *High Expectations* (Broadman)
Ebbie C. Smith, *Balanced Church Growth* (Broadman)
John Mark Terry, *Church Evangelism* (Broadman)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Exams - Students will have a final exam. The exam will be worth 40% of the grade. A study guide for each will be provided.

2. Paper - Each student will do a 10-page project (double-spaced) entitled “An Accurate Picture of ____ Church.” Students will examine the evangelistic methods utilized by the church over a specific span of time (must be a minimum of 5 years or the life of a church if it is a church plant). Students must format their paper according to the seminary’s style guide and have at least 8 sources for the paper. Sources can come from interviews, books, journals, church business meeting minutes, association reports, etc. This paper should describe the church’s location, environment, and Ministry of evangelism. This paper is due on May 7 and will comprise 40% of the grade.

3. Interaction forms - Students must submit an interaction form for each of the textbooks. The interaction form on Smith is due March 1, on Rainer April 1, and on Terry May 1, which is 20% of the grade.

4. Guest speakers are always a wonderful addition to class. Students are requested to make extra effort to be present on days we have guest speakers.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Students have a maximum of nine absences during the course term. Three tardy marks are equal to one absence.

LATE WORK:

Work turned in late will incur a deduction of 5% per day for each day that the assignment is late. The student is responsible to get late papers to his or her instructor. No papers accepted after the last day of class.
CLASS CONDUCT:

1. All talking should stop when the bell rings. Students should be attentive to the prayer requests of other class members.

2. No one is to leave the classroom until the class ends unless it is an emergency.

3. Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices may only be used for taking notes or other class related activities. Surfing the internet, texting, tweeting, etc. are not permitted. Students who abuse this policy will not be allowed to bring such devices to class.

4. Class is not dismissed until the professor dismisses the class (even after the bell rings).

5. Students should exhibit a Christ-like attitude and demeanor at all times.

After a warning, points will be deducted from the student’s grade for violation of any of the above rules.

MEETINGS WITH THE PROFESSOR:

Usually the professor is available to meet with students immediately after class. For appointments at other times, please see the professor or his assistant in the secretarial office.
GRADING SCALE

Grade point averages are determined on a 12-point grading system. The grade point value of each letter grade is:

A 97-100 4.0 quality points per semester hour
A- 95-96 3.8 quality points per semester hour
B+ 93-94 3.5 quality points per semester hour
B 90-92 3.0 quality points per semester hour
B- 87-89 2.7 quality points per semester hour
C+ 84-86 2.3 quality points per semester hour
C 81-83 2.0 quality points per semester hour
C- 77-83 1.7 quality points per semester hour
D+ 75-76 1.3 quality points per semester hour
D 72-74 1.0 quality points per semester hour
D-  70-71  0.7 quality points per semester hour
F  69 and below  0.0 quality points per semester hour

The 12-point grading scale allows a student to graduate possibly with a perfect 4.0 average. A grade point average of 2.0, however, will constitute the lowest passing average to graduate. Anything below 2.0 will be the basis for probation/suspension purposes.

(Syllabus May Change at the Discretion of the Professor)

Week One: The Introduction
January 20  Introduction and Syllabus
January 21  Biblical Basis for Evangelism
January 22  Biblical Basis for Evangelism

Week Two: Church Growth Movement
January 27  Founder
January 28  History
January 29  Principles

Week Three  Church Evangelism
February 3  Principles
February 4  Planning
February 5  Evaluating

Week Four: Facilitate Change in the Congregation
February 10
February 11
February 12

**Week Five:**

February 17
February 18
February 19

**Week Six:**

February 24
February 25
February 26

**Week Seven:**

March 3
March 4
March 5

**Spring Break!!!!!!!**

March 10
March 11
March 12

**Spring Break!!!!!**

March 17
March 18
March 19

**Week Eight:**

March 23
March 24
March 25
Week Nine: Visitation Programs
March 31
April 1
April 2

Week Ten: Ministry Evangelism
April 7
April 8
April 9

Week Eleven: Reach People through Worship
April 14
April 15
April 16

Week Twelve: Using Media to Reach People
April 21
April 22
April 23

Week Thirteen: Reach People through Special Events
April 28
April 29
April 30

Week Fourteen: Retain and Assimilate New Members
May 5
May 6
May 7

Week Fifteen: Church Planting
May 12
May 13
May 14

**Week Sixteen:**
May 19 -- Final Exams
May 20 -- Final Exams

**READING & ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST:**

**Week One:**
The Introduction
January 20
January 21
January 22

**Week Two:**
Praying for the Lost
January 27
Terry, pp. 15-28
January 28
January 29

**Week Three:**
Church Growth Movement
February 3
Terry, pp. 29-44
February 4
February 5
Submit Interaction Form on *Balanced Church Growth*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Four:</th>
<th>Facilitate Change in the Congregation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Terry, pp. 45-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Five:</th>
<th>Plan for Evangelism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Terry, pp. 57-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Six:</th>
<th>Mobilize the Church Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Terry, pp. 73-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Seven:</th>
<th>Grow with Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Terry, pp. 89-102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>MID SEMESTER EXAMS!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Break!!!</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Break!!!!</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Eight:</th>
<th>Discover Prospects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Terry, pp. 103-114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week Nine: Visitation Programs
March 31
April 1
April 2
Terry, pp. 115-130

Week Ten: Ministry Evangelism
April 7
April 8
April 9
Terry, pp. 131-142

Week Eleven: Reach People through Worship
April 14
April 15
April 16
Terry, pp. 143-162

Week Twelve: Using Media to Reach People
April 21
April 22
April 23
Terry, pp. 163-176

Week Thirteen: Reach People through Special Events
April 28
April 29
April 30
Terry, pp. 177-188

Week Fourteen: Retain and Assimilate New Members
May 5
May 6
May 7
Terry, pp. 189-202
Submit Interaction Form on High Expectations

Week Fifteen: Church Planting
May 12        Terry, pp. 203-214
May 13        Submit Research Paper
May 14

**Week Sixteen:**
May 19        --Final Exams
May 20        --Final Exams

CHUR CH GROWTH INTERACTION FORM

Name____________________________ Date____________
Course Title_____________________________________________
Title of book____________________________________________
Author__________________________________________________________________
Your Evaluation: (1 lowest—10 highest) ____________
Summary: 
What new insights have you gained from reading this book?
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

How can these new insights be applied to your own life and ministry?
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


------. *One Size Doesn’t Fit All: Bringing Out the Best in Any Size Church*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1999.


