



AMBROSE SEMINARY

EV 635-1 Establishing Communities of Faith in a Multi-Cultural World

Instructor: Richard P. Gilbertson, Th.M, DMin (cand.)

Class Time: Thursdays, 8:15 am to 11:00 am

Classroom: L2082

Email Address: ric_gilbertson@telus.net

Website: <http://www.cmaconverge.com>

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Establishing Communities of Faith in Multi-cultural World is designed to introduce the learner to the exciting ministry of initiating vibrant communities of faith (the church) in context. Participants will discover culturally relevant ways of applying trans-cultural biblical principles associated with evangelism and the growth of dynamic communities of faith. A theological framework for establishing these communities in their local context is accompanied by relevant methodological and strategic research that informs the way in which these communities are developed in our multi-cultural world.”

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

2.1 Cognitive . . . what the learner should know and understand.

- Articulate the biblical foundations for church planting particularly those indicated in the New Testament.
- Understand the role of church planting in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- Understand the relevance of Trinitarian theology for the practice of church planting.

2.2 Affective . . . what the learner should feel and appreciate.

- Esteem the divine aspect of church planting and the resulting implications for both personal spiritual formation and personal spiritual life practices.
- Recognize the importance of a multiplicity of strategies in bringing about desired results.
- Appreciate the need and value of a comprehensive understanding of the principles of church planting.

2.3 Conative . . . what the learner should be able to do and perform.

- Identify worthwhile resources to inform and guide their personal improvement in church planting.
- Articulate their own personal philosophy of ministry along with contextual applications for various intercultural settings.

3. TEXTBOOKS

HESSELGRAVE, David J

2000 Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond.
(Grand Rapids: Baker Book House).

HUNTER III, George G.

2000 The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity can reach the west...again.
(Nashville: Abingdon Press).

SEAMANDS, Stephen

2005 Ministry in the Image of God- The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service.
(Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books).

4. COURSE OUTLINE

See Appendix 1

5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

5.1 Church Planting Paper and Class Presentation (40% = Paper 35% + Presentation 5%)

Each learner will be responsible to write a fifteen (15) page paper (not including appendices) based on one of the following options.

a topic approved by the instructor.

- Planting Churches in Creative Access Countries
- Planting Churches in . . . (geographical area- i.e. North West Calgary)
- Planting Cell Churches
- Planting Churches among Ethnic Minorities
- Planting Churches in an Urban Context.
- Planting Cluster Churches
- Planting Churches through the Daughter Church Method
- Planting House Churches
- The _____ Experience of Church Planting: a Case Study
- A topic approved by Instructor

***Due Date-* The paper is **DUE one class prior to the student's presentation day.**
(Nov. 26th or Dec. 3rd)**

5.2 Interview and case study: New church plant/Establishing a faith community- 20%

The Student will find a pastor/church planter/missionary who has started/is starting a new church.

The student will then interview the person and submit a **five page** (5) report based on the case study.

Interview: Prepare a list of questions based on course content that will i) discover the story behind the church plant ii) the process/elements/strategy involved iii) the personal journey of the church planter.

Report: Summarize the results of the interview/case study (2 pages) and then provide a personal/strategic/theological reflection on lessons learned (3 pages). Submit a copy of interview questions as an appendix

Due date: OCT 29

5.3 Reading and Reporting on the Text (20%)

HESSELGRAVE, David J

2001 Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond.
(Grand Rapids: Baker Book House).

The learner will be required to submit a one (1) page reflection paper on each of the five parts of the text . . .

5.4 Reading and Small Group interaction/facilitation (20%)

TEXTS- HUNTER & SEAMANDS

Each class will have two fifteen (15) minutes small group sessions led by a student for each session. The designated leader for the day is expected to facilitate interaction and response to the required reading. A list will be established outlining the order for facilitating group discussion.

6. TYPICAL CLASS STRUCTURE-

The nature of the topic is such that class interaction/discussion is very important for the application of knowledge. The following is a general overview of a “typical class”

- “highlights from Hesselgrave”- what was take away; response?
- Lecture based on course outline + case study/discussion
- Class discussion: (student lead) Hunter- applied evangelism in context (DOING) approx. 15 min.
- Class discussion: (student lead) Seamands- spirituality of ministry (BEING-DOING) approx. 15 min.
- CONCLUSION.

7. GRADING SCHEDULE

The available letter grades and percentages for course grades are as follows.

A+	96% and above	(GPA – 4.0)	C+	68 - 71%	(GPA – 2.3)
A	91 - 95%	(GPA – 4.0)	C	63 - 67%	(GPA – 2.0)
A-	86 - 90%	(GPA – 3.7)	C-	60 - 62%	(GPA – 1.7)
B+	82 - 85%	(GPA – 3.3)	D+	56 - 59%	(GPA – 1.3)
B	75 - 81%	(GPA – 3.0)	D	50 - 55%	(GPA – 1.0)
B-	72 - 74%	(GPA – 2.7)	F	Below 50%	

8. IMPORTANT NOTES

- Unless specified otherwise, assignments should be submitted via email as an attachment in a Microsoft Word Document no later than 11:59 pm MST on the due date.
- The title page of **ALL** assignments should include the course name and number, the professor's name, the student's name, student ID number and mailbox number. This is imperative!
- All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to pass the course. Any student who is absent for more than 1 day will not be eligible to receive passing credit for the course.
- Late assignments will lose 5% per day to a maximum of 15%, after which discussion with the professor is required.
- Participation and success in this course requires that students are actively engaged by carefully reading the required material and attentively attending each class. If you are having trouble with any of the assignments or the course material, it is your responsibility to ask questions in class or contact the instructor by email.
- Intellectual honesty is very important. Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence and may result in expulsion from the university.
- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of Ambrose Seminary as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar and Catalogue. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY- HOW AND WHY TO START NEW CHURCHES-

J. Bailey and S. Nicholson, *Coaching Church Planters* (US Association of Vineyard Churches, 1999)

Church of England Board of Mission, *Breaking New Ground- Church Planting in the Church of England* (London: Church House, 1994)

Harvie Conn, ed., *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*

(Baker, 1997)

Hozell C. Francis, *Church Planting in the African-American Context* (Zondervan, 1999)

David Garrison, *Church Planting Movements* (International Mission Board, SBC, n.d.)

Roger Greenway, ed. *Guidelines for Urban Church Planting* (Baker, 1976)

D.Hesselgrave, *Planting Churches Cross-culturally: North America & Beyond* 2nd ed. (Baker, 2000)

Paul G. Hiebert and Eloise Hiebert Meneses, *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies* (Baker, 1995)

Bob Hopkins, *Planting New Churches: Guidelines and Structures for Developing Tomorrow's Church* (Guildford, Surrey: Eagle, 1992)

Ezra Earl Jones, *Strategies for New Churches* (Harper, 1976)

Larry L. Lewis, *The Church Planter's Handbook* (Broadman, 1992)

Robert E. Logan, *Starting a Church that Keeps on Growing* (Charles E. Fuller Institute, 1986)

Donald MacNair, *The Birth, Care, and Feeding of the Local Church* (Baker, 1971)

Aubrey Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century* (Baker, 1992)

Keven Mannoia, *Church Planting: The Next Generation* (Indianapolis: Light and Life Press, 1994)

Stephen Timmis, ed. *Multiplying Churches: Reaching Today's Communities through Church Planting* (Christian Focus, 2000)

Lyle Schaller, *44 Questions for Church Planters* (Abingdon, 1991)

David W. Shenk and Ervin Stutzman, *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models for Church Planting* (Herald, 1988)

C. Peter Wagner, *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest: A Comprehensive Guide* (Regal, 1990)

CHURCH PLANTING AND GLOBAL MISSIONS

Roland Allen, *Missionary Methods: St Paul's or Ours?* (Eerdmans, 1993)

Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* (Eerdmans, 1989) and *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel And Western Culture* (Eerdmans, 1986)

Dayton, D.A. Fraser, *Planning Strategies for World Evangelization* Rev Ed. (Eerdmans, 1990)

James Engel and William Dryness, *Changing the Mind of Mission: Where Have We Gone Wrong* (IVP, 2000)