Spring 2014   **Mondays**
Course Prerequisites: None   1:00-3:30

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students study the principles and procedures that facilitate growth in the church. This practical course considers the role of leadership in the church in the American society to bring about a growing congregation and examine the importance of new church planting to the overall growth of the church.

COURSE RATIONALE

This course meets the following AIM divisional objective:

> Having been exposed to effective church models and administrative procedures via classroom and field experiences, the student will possess essential knowledge to organize and administrate a ministry within the basis of a biblical, historical, and socio-cultural context.
> By means of the integration of classroom instruction, observation, and participatory leadership and ministry opportunities, the student will cultivate a growing appreciation for and understanding of the biblical model of servant leadership.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

> Upon conclusion of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. Strategic leadership: Demonstrate leadership and management skills appropriate to Christian ministry.
2. Discipleship: Demonstrate a growing commitment to the advancement of the church through evangelism, discipleship, and service.
3. Identify models of church growth.
4. Strategically identify issues related to church growth in ministry contexts.
5. Identify prominent leaders in church growth.
6. Define significant terms in church growth.
7. Understand the role of the preaching ministry in church growth.
8. Acknowledge the role that church planting plays in church growth.
9. Exegete significant passages relating to major issues in church growth.
10. Explain necessary components for church growth in relation to its definition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading**: Read and digest all the books: *The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas*; *The Purpose-Driven Church*, *Biblical Church Growth*. *First*, for each book summarize the church growth strategy presented in the book in 250 words. *Second*, list 20-30 church growth insights from each book. *Third,* offer 5 strengths and weaknesses of each book.
   i. *Required Textbooks:*
      1. Copan, Paul. *The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.
      2. McIntosh, Gary. *Biblical Church Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2003.
      3. Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
2. **Church Growth Interviews**: Interview five preaching/lead ministers of "growing" churches. The interview should consist of strategic questions that reveal "how" and "why" the church grew. The class will come up with a list of key questions prior to interviews and then after interviews. The student will report on these interviews in 500 words.
3. **Social Media and Website Church Growth Research**: Each student will research online resources for church growth. A 500-word report in bullet format report will be required as a result of the research.
4. **Church Growth Analysis**: Each student is required to conduct a church growth of a selected church of his or her choice. The analysis will include the elements, character, and strategies that the church used to grow. The paper will be 2,500 words in length.
5. **Attendance & Participation**: Attendance in class for the scheduled time is required. Attendance is worth percentage points added to or taken from your final class average according to the following formula:

Absences	Percentage
0	+2%
1	+1%
2	+0%
3	-1%
4	-2%
5	-4%
6	-6%
7	-8%
8+	Fail

A student with absences over the College's 25% rule will fail. According to the Saint Louis Christian College catalog, once a student has missed over 25% of a total course, the Academic Dean will immediately withdraw them.

If a student arrives 15 minutes late to class or leaves earlier than the last 15 minutes of class the student will be counted absent even if he or she is in attendance for the remainder of the class session; If arriving late to class (15 min +), the required assignment or test for that class period will not be accepted or given resulting in a zero for the assignment/test.

Participation—The "in-class" participation score is an evaluation by the professor of the student's in-class involvement in activities, discussions, alertness, helpfulness, positive learning contributions and compliance to classroom rules.

COURSE ASSESSMENT (EVALUATION)

1. **Style:** Use MLA format for all appropriate assignments. **Font:** Use Times New Roman, 12 Font, Single-spaced page formatting unless otherwise noted. **Name:** Name, Box #, Class prefix and suffix, and date. All assignments must be typed, no exceptions. *Failure to follow this formatting will result in a 10% penalty.*
2. The courses uses the grading scale in the school catalog.

Assignment	Total Points	Portal Category/Assign.
Warren Book Review	100	Warren/Review #
McIntosh Book Review	50	McIntosh/Review #
Copan Book Review	50	Copan/Review #
Interviews	250 (50 pts X 5 interviews)	Interview/Interview #
Research	250	Research/Research
Analysis	200	Analysis/Analysis
Class Participation	100	Participat

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Assignment Due	Reading Due	Class Topic
25 Aug	Monday			Leadership
1 Sep	Monday			3 Essential Elements
8 Sep	Monday	Online Research		Strategies
15 Sep	Monday	Interview 1		Biblical Church Growth
22 Sep	Monday	Interview 2		Critical Issues
29 Sep	Monday	Warren		Key Personalities
6 Oct	Monday			Hindrances to Growth
13 Oct	Monday			Interview 1 Reflection
20 Oct	Monday	Interview 3		Interview 2 Reflection
27 Oct	Monday	McIntosh		Interview 3 Reflection
3 Nov	Monday			Key Texts in CG
10 Nov	Monday			Analysis Discussion
17 Nov	Monday	Interview 4		Research Discussion
24 Nov	Monday	Analysis		***Thanksgiving***
1 Dec	Monday	Copan		Interview 4 Reflection
8 Dec	Monday	Interview 5		Interview 5 Reflection

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING RESOURCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (1962 World Dominion Press), 1984 Reprint.

DeYmaz, Mark. *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments, and Practices of a Diverse Congregation.* San Francisco, California: Jossey-Bass (a Wiley Imprint), 2007.

Jones, Tom, ed. *Church Planting from the Ground Up.* Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004.

McGavran, Donald A. and Arn, Win. *How to Grow a Church: Conversations about Church Growth.* Glendale, California: Regal Books Division of Gospel Light Publications, 1973.

McGavran, Donald A. *Understanding Church Growth.* Fully Revised. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.

Mittelberg, Mark. *Building a Contagious Church.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

Schwarz, Christian A. *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches.* St. Charles, Illinois: ChurchSmart Resources, 1996.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Strategies for Church Growth: Tools for Effective Mission and Evangelism.* Regal Books Division of Gospel Light Publications, 1987.

Yancey, George. *One Body, One Spirit: Principles of Successful Multiracial Churches.* Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **The Hundred**: High quality writing in all assignments is expected. You are strongly encouraged to seek help from The Hundred for editing, research, preparation for exams, etc.

2. **Learning Disabilities**: If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see the professor privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.

3. **Late Policy**: Due to the nature of this class and preaching, late work is not permitted. You can't turn a sermon in late in ministry. If you are gone, your work is expected at the beginning of class. Part of life is planning ahead. You will have technology

problems, family issues, and emergencies every semester. You need to stay ahead to get things in on time.

4. **Electronic Submissions**: Electronic submissions are accepted for this class for certain assignments. The professor will mention those in class.

5. **Course Modification**: Please understand that the Professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even an assignment as long as it does not *add* to the students' work load.

6. **Plagiarism**: Any plagiarism or cheating will result in a "Zero" for the assignment and possible withdrawal from the course.

7. **Electronic Devices**: You are encouraged to bring your laptop, iPads, iPod, and other electronic devices used for note taking. However, using your electronic device for some purpose that is not class-related is not only inappropriate and dishonest but also distracting to students sitting nearby. If you are seen using your laptop, iPad and other electronic devices for something unrelated to class you will be asked to shut if off and possibly not bring it to class again.

8. **Cell Phones**: Cell phones are not allowed in class. Not even to read the Bible. If you are expecting an emergency call, you can be reached via the Academic Secretary at 314-837-6777x1520.

9. **Bible**: Bring your Bible to class. Failure to do so will result in a zero participation score for the day.

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Office Hours: See Dr. Sanders' Office Door

2. Contact: Office: 314-837-6777x1522; Cell: 770-402-5842; esanders@slcconline.edu

3. Office: Upstairs Keystone.