Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information

Professor: Bill Wiesman, D.Min.  
Email: bwiesman@nazarene.org

Director New Church Development
USA/Canada Church of the Nazarene
Office: (913) 577-2861
Office Hours: by appointment

Catalog Description

This course provides an overview of the New Church emphasis for The Church of the Nazarene in the USA and Canada. The course will explore briefly biblical and theological foundations for starting new churches and will include Church Planting Essentials certified training developed by Dynamic Church Planting International (www.dcpi.org). Each student will develop a “Vision Plan TimeLine” focusing on four phases of new church development: hearing from God, preparing to launch, launching and mission-to-the-world.

Course Narrative & Rationale

There is new interest in church planting across the USA and Canada. It appears that God is up to something. We have trained more than 400 Church of the Nazarene pastors and leaders in
22 different venues since October of 2011 in week long intensives of church planting. 20 of our 80 DSs in the USA/Canada Church of the Nazarene have attended one or more of the Church planting trainings. The number of new churches started in the USA and Canada increased by 53% from 72 in 2011 to 110 in 2012. This course will explore: biblical principles of church planting, why plant a church, prayerful planning, leadership development, a process of discipleship, building a launch team, potential landmines, culturally relevant outreach, reproducing, balancing family and ministry, and seasons of church planting. The Church of the Nazarene in North America needs missionaries to start all kinds of new ministries and churches. Will you be one of them?

**Degree Objectives Addressed in this Course**

**Master of Divinity Degree Objectives:** (Please see the NTS Catalog for the full program objectives.)

1. Mature knowledge of God and self, attained through practices of Christian formation and personal discipline.
2. Articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scripture of the Old and New Testaments.
3. Cultivation of gifts, practical skills, and vocational identity as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through engagement in and reflection on the pastoral arts.
4. Understanding of local and global diversity through the investigation of cultural contexts, to enable the Church to proclaim effectively and to embody the mission of God.

**Master of Arts Christian Formation and Discipleship Degree Objectives:** (Please see the NTS Catalog for the full program objectives.)

1. A deep personal commitment to God and God’s Church and a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry formed through an ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and through participation in the life of the church.

6. A capacity and desire for professional and spiritual growth in the context of ministry through research and leadership by demonstrating a spirit of integrity, openness, cooperation, and care.

**Master of Arts Intercultural Studies Degree Objectives:** (Please see the NTS Catalog for the full program objectives.)
2. Articulation of the biblical-theological understandings of the missio Dei in ways that assist the church’s response to God’s call to participate in that mission.

4. Application of missiological tools to assist the Church in engaging its missional context as it fulfills its missional calling.

Master of Arts Theological Studies Degree Objectives: (Please see the NTS Catalog for the full program objectives.)

GENERAL ACADEMIC TRACK

2. Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons

Course Outcomes (Parentheses indicate Related Course Assignments & Requirements)

With the help of the Lord students will be equipped to:

1. Articulate self-knowledge of personality characteristics, strengths and weaknesses as related to the identified characteristics of a church planter. (R1e, R2e, R3b)

2. Appropriate Scripture to personal and corporate life both in and beyond the church. (R1b, R2b, R2c, R2d, R3b, R3c)

3. Facilitate the formation of a community of faith as the called and gathered, centered in Christ, and sent people of God. (R1d, R1f, R2a, R2b, R3a, R3b, R3c, R3d)

4. Model and facilitate Christian witness and spiritual transformation. (R2d, R3c)

5. Communicate effectively in written, spoken, artistic, and other forms. R1a, R2d, R3c, R3e)

6. Engage the holistic nature of the church in redemptive ministries of restoration. (R1a, R3e)

7. Lead in such a way as to develop the leadership potential in others. (R2d, R3c)

8. Articulate the missional nature of the church. (R1a, R1b, R3e)

9. Exegete aspects of society including ethnicity and culture. (R2d, R3c)

10. Draw from core doctrines to shape both personal journey and vocational ministry. (R1a, R3e)

11. Display a sense of spiritual self-understanding and personal vocation consistent with the student’s ministry interests and emphases. (R1a, R1e, R2e, R3e)

12. Recognize ways in which the missio Dei requires the church to consider the various cultural contexts. (R1c)

13. Adapt ethnographic research tools as a means to exegete specific contexts for ministry practice. (R2d, R3c)
14. Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons. (R2d, R3c)

**Required Texts & Course Materials**

Becker, Paul and Mark Williams. The New Dynamic Church Planting Handbook (EBook CD only). Dynamic Church Planting International. (Order on line at www.dcpi.org)

**Recommended Texts & Course Materials**

Web-site: www.usacanadaregion.org/church-planting

**Course Outline**

See Calendar below.

**Course Assignments & Requirements** (Parentheses indicate Related Course Outcomes)

1. Pre-module Assignments and Requirements
   a. Read Viral Churches by Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird. Submit a three page draft paper using Viral Churches (other sources may be used if desired, but are not required) that describes how the student might become a “Movement Maker.” I am not looking for a summary of the book, but an application as it relates to the student’s God given vision for the future. A final version of this paper will be submitted post module. (C5, C6, C8, C10, C11)
   c. Choose one of Chapters 18 to 22 and write a three page reflection paper using the study guide as an outline for that chapter. (C12)
   d. Read the Church Planting Handbook by Paul Becker and Mark Williams. Note: The Church Planting Essentials Student Workbook which will be completed in
class is based upon this book. Indicate on Moodle when you have completed this book. (C3)

e. Complete the Church Planter Candidate Assessment found at http://churchplanter.lifeway.com/organization/186/. You may click the upper right hand button “Purchase Passcode” or you may first select one of the regional organizations and purchase the passcode on one of the district sites. **Cost to take this online assessment is $29. This will require a credit card. If that is a problem, please contact the instructor for an alternate method to obtain a passcode. If you select a district, your scores will be seen by you AND also the district superintendent for that district.** (C1, C11)

f. Spend 8 hours over a period of time on the New Church Web-site http://www.usacanadarregion.org/church-planting. Become familiar with the layout. Pay particular attention to the “Pathway to Planting”. Note any errors, clarifications or suggestions for improving the site and share those in brief written form with the instructor. Indicate on Moodle when you have completed this requirement. (C3)

2. Module Assignments and Requirements

a. Spend approximately 6 hours during the two week module on the New Church web site. Indicate on Moodle when you have completed this assignment. (C3)

b. Complete the **Church Planting Essentials Student Workbook** in class. This workbook will be provided at no charge by the instructor at the first class. (C2, C3)

c. Complete the **Certified Trainer Student Workbook** in class. This workbook will be provided at no charge by the instructor at the first class. (C2, C3)

d. Develop and present to the class and receive feedback on a three to four page **rough draft** of a Vision-Plan-Timeline for a new church based upon the **Church Planting Essentials** guidelines which will be taught in class. The in-class presentation may include power point and written outline and must include the following items: (C2, C4, C5, C7, C9, C13, C14)
  i. Prayerful Planning and timeline
  ii. Leadership Development
  iii. Discipleship Process
  iv. Building a launch team
  v. Potential Landmines
  vi. Culturally Relevant Outreach
  vii. Reproduction
  viii. Mission-to-the-world

e. Meet with the instructor for a 30 minute conference to discuss leadership and calling as outlined in the material to be taught in class. A sign-up sheet will be available at the second class. Topics in context of Church Planting will include: (C1, C11)
  i. The results of the pre-assessment
  ii. Maturity – Spiritual Disciplines
  iii. Ability- Experience and training in area of Church Planting
iv. Personality - Gifts and graces for church planting
v. Compatibility - Willingness to reteach the materials to other leaders

3. Post-module Assignments and Requirements
   a. Read Church Planting Landmines by Nebel and Rohrmayer. Submit a one page interaction. Utilizing the training received in the class discuss which landmine might be most likely to occur in your ministry context. Include how you would avoid stepping on this landmine and “blowing-up” your new church. (C3)
   b. Plan and go on a personal prayer retreat as discussed in class. This retreat requires that you spend six hours of uninterrupted time. The class will discuss various options. However, the preferred option is to spend 2 hours in the evening, then get a good night of rest and complete the retreat the next morning. Depending upon your context you may need to plan to be away from home and work to finish this assignment. Indicate on Moodle when you have completed this assignment. (C1, C2, C3)
   c. Develop an eight to nine page final draft of the Vision-Plan-Timeline that you began during the class time. (C2, C4, C5, C7, C9, C13, C14)
   d. Spend approximately 8 hours over a period of time on the New Church web site. Indicate on Moodle when you have completed this assignment. (C3)
   e. Review the paper that you submitted pre-module on Viral Churches by Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird. Submit a three page final paper that describes how the student might become a “Movement Maker.” Indicate how the class may have changed you. (C5, C6, C8, C10, C11)

Course evaluations will be available in the final two or three weeks of the class in Moodle. All students are requested to complete this evaluation.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>pre-module hours</th>
<th>module hours</th>
<th>post-module hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face Class Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments and Learning Activities</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>42</td>
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</table>

Method for Submitting Assignments
All assignments should be submitted via Moodle. If no submittal is required, you must still indicate on Moodle when you have completed that assignment.

Form and Style Expectations
It is expected that writing assignments will be submitted in good style and format, and will be free from grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors. The quality of your written work will have an impact on the grade you receive. You may format your essays in accordance with the conventions of Kate Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, or the Chicago Manual of Style. All written assignments should be double spaced and use a standard 12 point font.

**Inclusive Language**

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

**Policy Regarding Late Work**

I will assign a letter grade penalty to all written assignments turned in after the time they are due. When an assignment is more than one week late, I will assign a two letter grade penalty to it.

**Additional Costs**

Students are required to take the on-line Church Planter Pre-assessment. Cost is $29. This pre-assessment is available on line at [http://churchplanter.lifeway.com/organization/186/](http://churchplanter.lifeway.com/organization/186/).

**Course Grading**

Evaluation in this kind of course involves an element of subjectivity. The primary factors taken into account in assessing —good solid graduate work, for a —B are (1) ability to demonstrate a breadth and depth of understanding of the material engaged; (2) ability to engage this material in a critical way; (3) ability to exhibit how the material is related to a larger context. If you demonstrate a consistent ability to do these things in all your coursework, you can expect to receive a B. If you demonstrate consistent ability to do them incisively and with excellence, you can expect to receive an A. If you demonstrate an ability to do these things often, but not consistently, you can expect to receive a C. (Hence, a C means —average, or —satisfactory work. It does not mean —bad or —unsatisfactory.) If you seldom demonstrate an ability to do these things, you can expect to receive a D.

The final grade will be computed using the following point scale. There are 1,000 possible points.

- 50 points Viral Churches, “Movement Maker” rough draft
- 50 points Holy Purpose, Chapter 13 Reflection Paper
- 50 points Holy Purpose One of Chapter 18-22, Reflection Paper
- 50 points Read Church Planting Handbook
50 points Complete the Church Planter pre-assessment (on-line)
50 points Spend a total of 22 hours over the 14 weeks on the New Church web-site
100 points Vision Plan Timeline in-class presentation
100 points Class attendance and participation
50 points Conference with Instructor
50 points Read Nebel and Rohrmayer and submit one page interaction paper
50 points Plan and go on a personal prayer retreat
250 points Final Draft Vision Plan Timeline
100 points Viral Churches, “Movement Maker” Final draft

The following point scale will determine letter grades:
A 1,000-900
B 899-800
C 799-700
D 699-600
F 599-0

**Documented Learning Disabilities**

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Class Attendance**

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

If a student is absent for 9 hours of a two week module or is absent four or more weeks of the pre/post module, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment Due by 11:55 PM CT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12/10-15 | 1    | Pre-Module Begins  
Read Holy Purpose: Introduction, CH 13, 18,19,20,21,22, Epilogue  
Begin 8 hours of Pre-module web-time on New church Web-site |
| 12/17-22 | 2    | Read Viral Churches by Stetzer and Bird                                                      |
| 12/24-29 | 3    |                                                                                             |
| 12/31-1/5| 4    | 2 Papers on Holy Purpose; 1 paper on Viral Church, “Movement Maker”  
Due 1/5                                                      |
| 1/7-12   | 5    | Complete the Church Planter Pre-assessment. Due 1/12                                        |
| 1/14-19  | 6    | Read Church Planting Handbook by Becker and Williams. Due 1/19  
Pre-course Web-time completed. Due 1/19                                 |
| 1/21-26  | 7    | Begin 6 hours of web-time on New Church web-site during Module Face to Face  
Instructor conferences- as scheduled 1/23 to 1/24                              |
| 1/21     |      | CPE Sessions 01-06; 12 Biblical Principles, Why Plant a Church, The Lord of Church Planting, Prayerful Planning Time, Vision Plan Timeline Intro |
| 1/22     |      | CPE Sessions 07-12; A Planned Approach, Phase One: God to You,  
| 1/23     |      | CPE Sessions 13-17; Church Planting Landmines, Using a Timeline,  
Developing Culturally Relevant Outreach Plans, Phase Three; Jerusalem, Why Plant a Daughter Church. |
| 1/28-2/2 | 8    | Web-time completed, Due 2/2. In class presentation of V-P-T. Due 1/28                      |
| 1/28     |      | Vision-Plan-Timeline Presentations in class and peer feedback                               |
| 1/29     |      | Certified Trainer Training                                                                 |
| 1/30     |      | Certified Trainer Student Teaching and feedback, 2 groups of six  
Vision-Goal-Strategy Student Presentations and peer feedback |
| 1/31     |      | Class Interactive with Church Planting Pastors. Commissioning and Prayer for students.     |
| 2/4-9    | 9    | Post Module Work Begins                                                                    |
| 2/11-16  | 10   | Final Draft of Viral Churches, “Movement Maker” Due 2/16                                   |
| 2/18-23  | 11   | Read Church Planting Landmines by Nebel and Rohrmayer. Due 2/23                            |
| 3/4-9    | 13   | Personal Prayer Retreat may be completed any time in Weeks 9 to 13. Due 3/9.  
Course Evaluations (approximate release time by the Dean’s Office) |