NOTE: In addition to registering for this course with Northern for 3 hours of credit, you are responsible for travel and for registering with EcclesiaNetwork for the week training. The registration includes housing and meals. See the brochure and/or the following website for more details: http://ecclesianet.org/event/genesis2015/.

NOTE 2: This is a very intense, full week so do not plan on doing homework for your other classes while at the conference. It is best to be caught up with other assignments so you can be fully present at the church planting training.

NOTE 3: If you will miss any classes, be sure to inform your other professors that you will be absent this week and determine if you need to do any make-up work. Be mindful that each professor can determine the number of sessions you can miss and still pass the course—try not to miss any sessions other than this week.

Course Description

There is no greater need in the body of Christ today than effective church planting. Increasing secularization, the rate of change accelerated by the introduction of new technology, sustained globalization, and the proliferation of a variety of religious faiths and pluralistic philosophies have combined to drive many communities of Christian faith into a posture of disengagement from culture. The result has been irrelevance and decline in church involvement, especially among younger generation. Living in the midst of this new world, fresh expressions of the church are necessary in order to engage with the masses of people that the gospel of Jesus calls us to reach. Planting new congregations will be the most successful way of inviting unreached people into the life of the gospel. This course serves as a theological and practical introduction to that process.

Course Objectives

Specific – The Student will:

- Gain a basic understanding of the need for new congregations.
- Explore the relationship between the kingdom of God and the community of God in the development of congregational ministry.
- Glean the necessary practices to keep oneself in right relationship to God, Family, and Self in the process of church planting.
- Develop a philosophy of discipleship/spiritual formation for new converts and congregations.
- Study a framework for incarnational ministry and be given tools for cultural exegesis.
• Learn and practice the basics of spiritual formation.
• Study the theological basis for planting new congregations.
• Integrate their learning into a comprehensive strategy for starting a new congregation.
• Learn the basics of congregational administration in relation to new church starts.

**Course Content**
This course introduces students to the nature and process of church planting. The course is divided into five sections.
- Theology of Church Planting
- The Life of a Church Planter
- The Church Plant in Context
- The Church Planter and Team Practices for Church Planting

**Course Requirements**

A. Reading in entirety the course textbooks:
Each student is required to read the following works in order to complete the requirements for this course. These should be completed prior to the course start:


B. Course Papers/Projects:

   - **Course Project # 1**: Notes from Required Reading
     Write a 5 page, double-spaced summary highlighting what you learned from the readings. Highlight two observations from the readings that help you as you seek to plant a church. Reflect on the reading and describe what the one or two biggest challenges might be for you as you contemplate planting a church.
     **Due**: Sept 21, 2015 (20% of grade)

   - **Course Project # 2**: Book of Acts Outline/Summary
     Read the entire book of Acts. Briefly summarize five events in the book of Acts and what you learned about the church planting process through observing how God worked. This should take no more than 5 pages double-spaced.
     **Due**: Oct. 2, 2015 (20% of grade)

   - **Course Project # 3**: Theology & Philosophy of Church Planting Paper
     Based on the readings and all that you learned during this week write a summary paper developing a theological and philosophical framework for church planting. This paper should answer the following questions:
2. Discuss the essential elements that you believe makes a “healthy” church plant.
3. Describe the kind of church community that you believe will connect Jesus to a changing world.

This paper will be more than 10-12 double-spaced paper.

**Due Oct. 9, 2015** (40% of grade)

**Course Methods:**
A. Learning
   - Class Lecture and discussion
   - Intensive/book discussion and integration
   - Critical reading/listening and Evaluation
   - Experiential Learning

B. Grading
   - Integrated Notes on Required Reading 20%
   - Book of Acts Outline/Summary 20%
   - Theology & Philosophy of Church Planting Paper 40%
   - Class Participation 20%

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topic/Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21, 2015</td>
<td>Session #1: Why Plant Churches</td>
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<td>Session #2: Foundations for Church Planting</td>
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<td>Sept 22, 2015</td>
<td>Session #3: Planting With a Mission Mindset &amp; Strategy</td>
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<td>Session #4: Developing Models And Approaches</td>
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<td>Session #5: Gathering and Developing Your Team</td>
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<td>Session #6: Developing a Philosophy of Worship</td>
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<td>Session #7: Developing a Discipling Culture</td>
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<td>Sept 23, 2015</td>
<td>Session #8: Reading Your City</td>
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<td>Session #9: Developing Your Church Planting Plan 1</td>
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<td>Session #10: Children’s Ministry in a Small Church/Start-Up Context</td>
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<td>Session #11: Developing Your Church Planting Plan 2</td>
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<td>Sept 24, 2015</td>
<td>Session #12: Developing Equipping Structures &amp; Leaders</td>
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<td>Session #13: Break Out sessions with Equippers</td>
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<td>Session #14: Funding the Mission</td>
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<td>Session #15: Health in Ministry/Longevity</td>
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<td>Session #16: Planting in The Power of The Spirit</td>
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<td>Sept 25, 2015</td>
<td>Session #17: Admin &amp; Legal Issues</td>
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<td>Session #18: Q&amp;A, Church Planting Plans</td>
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POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

**Diploma/Certificate Student Course Requirements**
The amount of work required of Diploma/Certificate students will be at the discretion of the professor. Students will be responsible for contacting the professor about what assignments are required.

**Class Attendance Policy**
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

**Class Tardiness Policy**
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

**Late Work Policy**
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

**Turabian Format**
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at http://moodle.seminary.edu. The evaluation will be open at the end of the course. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.