

PT6205 Principles of Church Planting
Summer 2024: RTS-Atlanta

Visiting Instructor: Rev. Dr. Kyle McClellan (kyle@practicalshepherding.org)

Course Objectives

1. Introduce students to the six preferred attributes of a church planter.
2. Introduce students to missiological categories as a matrix for church planting.
3. Convince students that the ordinary means of grace approach to church planting glorifies God, serves the people of God, and will safeguard the man of God.

Course Outcomes

1. Students understand the six preferred attributes of a church planter, and can locate where an ordinary means of grace approach fits within the larger construct.
2. Students can articulate and apply principles of contextualization and the six worldview questions as a launch point for missiological analysis of their prospective church plant area.
3. Students possess solid, substantial Reformed understandings of the sacraments, and the centrality of the Word of God for the corporate worship of the gathered, visible church.

Required Texts: 736 pages

- *Note: please purchase/borrow a physical copy of the book. If you have a documented learning disability, please utilize learning aids such as an audiobook to help supplement your assigned reading.*

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*. Eerdmans, 1982.

Berry, Wendell. *Hannah Coulter*. Counter Point, 2004.

Senkbeil, Harold. *The Care of Souls: Cultivating a Pastor's Heart*. Lexham Press, 2019.

Helm, David. *Expositional Preaching*. Crossway, 2014.

Classroom Expectations

- *Please note: this is an electronics free classroom. Laptops, e-readers, tablets, cell phones, etc. are not permitted in class. You will need to bring something analog to take notes with and take notes on. Look on the bright side: you have an excuse to buy a Moleskine notebook and some Sharpie gel pens/Tombow HB pencils.*
- *Each class day will use the following format: AM - reading quiz, reading discussion. PM - lecture/discussion.*

Tuesday, July 9: (Read all of Newbigin in preparation for class)

Intro

Newbigin quiz

Newbigin discussion

Lunch

Lecture, “Cultivating a theological vision for ordinary means of grace church planting.”

Wednesday, July 10: (Read all of Berry in preparation for class)

Berry quiz

Berry discussion

Lunch

Lecture, “Cultivating a theology of place: the Divine gift of limits, limitations, and membership.”

Thursday, July 11: (Read all of Senkbeil in preparation for class)

Senkbeil quiz

Senkbeil discussion

Lunch

Lecture, “The Ordinary Means of Grace: what are they? And why do them?”

*Thursday evening Practical Shepherding will be hosting a meet and greet at a local establishment. This is an entirely optional gathering.

Friday, July 12: (Read all of Helm in preparation for class)

Helm quiz

Helm discussion

Lunch

Lecture, “How’s the food? Preaching and church planting.”

Final exam (the final exam will cover the content and discussion from the books assigned and the afternoon lectures/discussions).

Grading Scale

This class utilizes the standard RTS grading scale (found on page 48 of the current academic catalog).

Each of the 4 reading quizzes will be 15% of your final grade (60%).

The Final Exam will be 30% of your grade.

Your interaction/participation in the class will be 10% of your grade.

Professor's Note:

Church planting is an intensely relational endeavor. This class is but a small taste of what you should expect should the Lord call you to vocational church planting. You do not have to have a particular personality type to be a church planter, but you do need to be able to be present and available to those around you. While there is academic work that you must complete, there is also a relational component to this class. As such, I offer the following expectations:

1. Attend all classes. If an emergency pops up, please email me at the earliest possible time and let me know. Since this is an intensive class, attendance is a bigger deal than missing one class in a semester-long offering.
2. Be on time for class.
3. Be prepared for class.
4. Leave any and all electronic devices outside the classroom. There will be a receptacle at the door for your cell phones. We will take breaks for you to check your devices, and you will have them for the lunch break.
5. Engage with the ideas, and others in the classroom, in a God-honoring way.
6. Embody the RTS motto: "Winsomely Reformed." If the Lord leads you to vocational church planting, building a team and building consensus on that team will be crucial. If you are unduly abrasive, or cannot "disagree without being disagreeable," you will find this task nigh unto impossible.

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p.

46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)