

Mission/Church Planting Studies

Deaf Theological Training Center
Partnership of Union University, International Mission Board, and Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer the student a basic biblical study of church planting as described in the New Testament and make application with the intent of applying insights gained to scripture crafting and storying on how to plant healthy, engaging, reproducing, Bible-centered churches in the cultural environment of Deaf communities. Topics for the course include understanding culture and various church planting models, the initial engagement of the Deaf community, utilizing national partners, the process of church planting, growth, and reproduction, and a historical examination of traditions that evolved to move the New Testament church model to something quite different in the post-modern era. Students will create visual projects and an action plan for teaching others about planting, reproducing indigenous, Deaf-led churches.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The students who are serving among the Deaf in cross-cultural settings, like missionaries, church planters, pastors, leaders, and church members, using Chronological Bible Storying, will demonstrate understanding of the foundational aspects of the church described in the New Testament, especially as they relate to Christian character, servant leadership, obedience to scriptural teachings, and the use of Bible storying among their assigned people.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Understand and explain the New Testament definition of a church – functions and structure
- Understand and explain the various ways that churches formed in the Book of Acts
- Understand and explain the various ways that churches functioned in the Book of Acts
- Understand and explain the principles for cultural engagement within a Deaf community
- Understand and explain the use of scriptural storying in leading people to faith and forming church
- Understand and explain how to incorporate spiritual formation, mentoring, and disciple-making by using stories to start a new church
- Understand, identify, and explain historical events that led to a pattern of non-biblical traditions
- Understand and explain the process of access and surveying a Deaf community
- Understand and share a story-based form of the GOSPEL FIVE as part of a direct witnessing tool within an assigned Deaf community

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REQUIRED and SUGGESTED TEXTS

REQUIRED: *The Bible* (in written, video-recorded, or signed versions, as appropriate to the student)

SUGGESTED: *Houses that Change the World* by Wolfgang Simson (optional)

ASSIGNMENTS

Daily interaction with the biblical text as assigned. Due to the survey nature of the course, no term papers or other special projects are required. Instead, emphasis will be placed on daily interaction with the scriptures via Chronological Storying techniques and iconic outlay. Students will be provided assignments to examine stories from Acts regarding the formation of churches during the period of the Apostles and determine what foundational principles can be applied for modern-day indigenous church planting..

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Selected scripture stories/portions will be presented by the instructor, and repeated by the students, to ingrain a thorough understanding of each story and how the church had its beginning during the time of the Apostles. In addition to teaching basic guidelines of the NT church, its function, structure, and historical precedent, the instructor will lead students in daily discussions about the implications of the respective stories and associated passages, with a focus on the missionary nature of God and the missional responsibility of the Church. Students will be introduced to and emphasize how themes and stories of the NT church as interpreted in context and applied within the setting where the stories/scripture portions are shared. American Sign Language will be the language of instruction, class interaction, and evaluation.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

Students will be expected to be in class during the regularly scheduled times and, on occasion, during some extended classroom training that may be needed. Missing ½ day of class will result in the reduction of 1 letter grade. Additional missed classes will result in corresponding reductions of letter grades.

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Class will begin at 9:00 am and the expectation is that students will be in their seats and ready to begin at that time. Arriving at class late on more than one occasion will cost ½ of a letter grade toward the final grading total. Three late arrivals will result in the reduction of 1 letter grade for the course.

ATTITUDE and INTERACTION

Within the context of the classroom setting the interaction and exchanges between students, and between students and instructors, should be done in a professional way. Course requirements that are determined to meet the criteria of Union University's standards, and their governing bodies, are not open for negotiation. All dialogue within these settings should have a high level of professionalism, respect, and grace.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Teacher will give this information on the first day of class

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Teacher will give this information on the first day of class

