



**The mission of Birmingham Theological Seminary is to provide sound biblical and practical theological training to equip leaders for Christ's Church.**

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Semester: Spring 2026

Time: Mondays 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Professor: Dr. Hunter Townsend Brewer

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Phone: (601) 624-2282

Course: DMin 4963 Contemporary Church Planting

**Course Description:** This course will focus on contemporary practices and thinking related to church planting within evangelicalism, including the Reformed tradition.

- To address the biblical need for church multiplication.
- To analyze church planting literature to better understand best practices (biblically and practically).
- To determine biblical characteristics of church planting in modern culture.
- To address the heart of a church planter.
- To consider theologically sound church multiplication systems.

**Required Course Texts:** The following are required texts for this course:

- *Twelve Trends in Multiplication* by Jeff Leake
- *The Multiplication Effect* by Mac Lake
- *Church Planting in the Secular West* by Stefan Pass
- *Planting, Watering, Growing: Planting Confessionally Reformed Churches* by Daniel Hyde
- *Making All Things New* by Benjamin Gladd and Matthew Harmon
- *Church Planting in Europe* by Evert Van de Poll and Joanne Appleton
- *Wise Church Planting* by Dan Steele

**Readings:** We will meet on Monday evenings during the spring semester. Please write a one-page paper on each reading assignment and be prepared to discuss it in class (see dates below). The final paper/project, due at the end, will be discussed during the first class.

**Assignment Dates:**

Monday, January 26	No assignment
Monday, February 2	<i>Wise Church Planting</i>
Monday, February 9	<i>Twelve Trends in Multiplication &amp; Project One</i>
Monday, February 16/23	<i>Planting, Watering, Growing...</i>
Monday, March 2	<i>The Multiplication Effect</i>
Monday, March 16	<i>Church Planting in the Secular West &amp; Project Two</i>
Monday, March 23	No assignment
Monday, March 30	<i>Church Planting in Europe</i>
Monday, April 13	<i>Making All Things New &amp; Project Three</i>
Friday, April 17	Final Paper

**Project Assignments:** There will be three projects besides the reading reports and final paper.

Project One: Interview two church planters (one within the Reformed tradition and the other broadly evangelical) - write a one-page summary for each (please consider the following questions)

- How was your location determined?
- What is your ministry plan?
- What have you learned thus far about planting that is unexpected?
- How did you gather your core group?
- What have been your biggest struggles?

Project Two: Interview two church planting network leaders (one within the Reformed tradition and the other broadly evangelical) – write a one-page summary for each (please consider the following questions)

- How was your network formed and how is constituted?
- What is your network seeking to accomplish?
- How are the planters you assist funded and recruited?
- What is the biggest hinderance to multiplication your network faces?
- What cultural forces effect your network positively and negatively?

Project Three: Interview two pastors whose churches are strongly engaged with church multiplication (one within the Reformed tradition and the other broadly evangelical) – write a one-page summary for each (please consider the following questions)

- How did your church develop a vision for multiplication?
- How has the Lord blessed your church through church planting?
- How is church multiplication communicated throughout the congregation?
- How is your vision for planting incorporated into leadership development?
- How is your teaching/preaching influenced by missional thinking?

## **BTS Format and Style Standards:**

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers, as in this class (see below). Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

### **PAPER GRADING RUBRIC**

<b>A to A-</b>	<b>B to B-</b>	<b>C to C-</b>	<b>D to D-</b>
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Many errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, over used, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to <i>Turabian's Manual for Writers</i>

**Class Policies and Procedures:**

Refer to Student Handbook:

<https://bts.education/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Student-Handbook-2016-Current.pdf>