

# OD779 Course Syllabus



*Seminar Description and Advance Reading Assignment*

*OD779*

Post-Christendom Church Planting: Theology and Practice

with

David Fitch

June 22 - 26, 2009

OD779: Post-Christendom Church Planting: Theology and Practice

David Fitch

June 22-26, 2009  
8 units

**Seminar Description**

The practice of planting churches changes with each given socio-cultural context. This is not to say that either the message of the gospel or the identity of the church changes. Rather, what changes is how Christians corporately carry out the practice of the church in culture and how we are heard/seen within that culture. Planting a church therefore presupposes a.) a theology of the church (ecclesiology), b.) a theology of the relationship of the church to culture and c.) an understanding of the cultural context itself. Planting churches requires reflection on all three of these issues. This course will explore these three facets as they relate to church planting in order to prepare the foundation for planting communities in the contexts of the new post-Christendom and post-modernity.

**Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes for this course are that the student shall:

- Achieve a basic understanding of the post-Christendom and/or postmodern contexts of N. America.
- Identify the necessary components to a robust ecclesiology for church planting.
- Develop an understanding of various practices essential to the identity of the church and how they are (or have been) affected by the cultural changes of post-Christendom and postmodernity.
- Craft an approach to church planting that best suits one's own critically formed theological assumptions as well as one's cultural context.

<b>Relevance for Ministry</b>	Church planting should be part of every church's agenda. It is a primary means of propagating the gospel until Christ returns. This course will guide the pastor through the theological, cultural and practical foundations needed to rethink and guide church planting as a ministry of the local church.
<b>Seminar Format</b>	This course is a one week intensive that will meet daily, Monday and Wednesday - Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. (with meal breaks) and Friday 8 a.m. – noon.
<b>Instructors</b>	David Fitch is B R Lindner chair of evangelical theology at Northern Seminary, Lombard Illinois. He is also church-planter/founding pastor of Life on the Vine Christian Community, a missional church in the NorthWest Suburbs of Chicago (see <i>Christianity Today</i> Sept 08, Fuller's <i>Theology News and Notes</i> Fall 2008 for written accounts by David Fitch of this church planting experience). He is ordained in the Christian and Missionary Alliance and speaks regularly at Missional church events around the country.
<b>Pre-Seminar Assignments</b>	<b>due on June 22, 2009</b>
<b>Reading</b>	Read 3,000 pp as directed from the bibliography included below.  (Note: It is against academic policy to claim credit for the same book in different Doctor of Ministry seminars. If you have previously read any book on the list for credit, substitute another for it.)
<b>Summary Papers</b>	Write 4 four-page (double spaced) summary papers on assigned questions concerning how we define the church, postmodernity and postChristendom, and the practices of the church.
<b>Short Paper #1</b>	<b>What is the Church?</b> After reading the assigned texts, out of the various perspectives and histories offered, answer the question, What are the essential features of the church without which one cannot recognize a given social entity as the church of Jesus Christ.(e.g. fellowship, unity, diversity, apostolicity etc.). Why are these features essential (Biblical, historical, theological reasons)?
<b>Short Paper #2</b>	<b>Define Post modernity and Post Christendom.</b> Postmodernity and postChristendom are confusing terms. Some writers prefer terms like "late modernity", some prefer "post-Enlightenment" and others overlap this term with "post Christian" or "post Christendom" culture. Reading a selection of the books assigned for each category, write a 4 page paper on each coming to your own decisions on what is helpful about these two terms: postmodernity and post-Christendom. Describe two or three main characteristics of each cultural/intellectual condition. Then describe how the two terms are related to one another.

**Short Paper #3**

After reading the required texts by Frost/Hirsch, Fitch (or other readings under Planting Churches/Seeding Communities) Describe one practice of the church (worship, preaching, evangelism, community etc.) and how the way we practice it changes from modernity/Christendom to postmodernity/post Christendom.

**Short Paper #4**

Choose one of the four church planting manuals listed under the “church-planting handbooks reading.” Please approve your choice with the professor so that all four handbooks are covered in class (my e-mail is fitchest@gmail.com). Using your understanding of Christendom/post-Christendom, modernity/postmodernity, write a four page (double spaced) paper analyzing the assumptions that undergird this church planting approach. Isolate several instances in the manual that assume Christendom and/or post Christendom conditions.

**Post-Seminar Assignments**

**due on November 1, 2009**

**Written Project**

Develop a 30-40 page paper where the student will propose a specific church planting strategy to be implemented in the participant’s ministry context. The student will choose from the various options provided in class. The student may choose to mix various strategies and/or innovate based upon some of the principles and ideas learned in the class. In the paper, the seminar participant will detail steps and processes he/she sees as essential to the church-planting task. After describing the strategy, the student must define how this strategy is a) faithful to the mission of the church of Jesus Christ and b) suitable for the given context.

Post-Seminar projects are due on **November 1, 2009**.

Failure to submit papers by November 1, 2009, will result in a late fee of \$200.00 and a two-month extension will be automatically granted. Projects not turned in by January 1, 2010 will result in a failing grade (F).

Work will be accepted based on the post-mark date. If the due date falls on a Sunday or holiday, please send the material on a previous date. A holiday or Sunday does not constitute the due date being moved to a later date.

Students may not attend another Doctor of Ministry seminar unless all previous coursework is completed and submitted prior to the first day of that seminar.

**Submission Instructions**

All Post-Seminar Assignments should be sent directly to:

The Doctor of Ministry Office  
Attn: Student Papers  
Fuller Theological Seminary  
135 N. Oakland Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91182.

Please do not submit papers in a three ring binder or inside a report cover, simply staple or clip the pages together.

Papers are typically not returned to students and are only done so at the discretion of the professor. Please duplicate your paper before sending as a precautionary measure.

If you want this paper returned with professor's comments, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please be certain to include the appropriate postage for the weight and size.

**Do not mail course projects to the professor.**

## Academic Integrity Commitment

At the beginning of this course we, as faculty and students, reaffirm our commitment to be beyond reproach in our academic work as a reflection of Christian character. We commit to honesty in all aspects of our work. We seek to establish a community which values serious intellectual engagement and personal faithfulness more highly than grades, degrees, or publications.

**Each student is required to complete the online tutorial, *You Quote It, You Note It*, found on each student's Portico account. Completing this tutorial one time meets this requirement for all courses.** Students are also expected to review and understand the commitments to academic integrity as printed in the Student Handbook and the Seminary catalogue. Some infractions can be addressed by personal confrontation and corrective counsel. The following violations of these commitments will be firmly addressed formally:

- Submitting the same work in whole or in part in more than one course without the permission of the professor(s);
- Submitting as one's own work material(s) obtained from another source;
- Plagiarism: unattributed quotations or paraphrases of ideas from published, published or electronic sources;
- Unauthorized collaboration in preparing assignments;
- Cheating on exams by any means;
- Aiding another student on papers and tests in violation of these commitments.

Any of these violations will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly in the course, and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee which may impose further sanctions in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Evidence of repeated violations will result in a formal disciplinary process. (For the full statement on Academic Integrity see *The Student Handbook* under *Official Statements*.) You may contact the Academic Integrity Committee Chair at [aic-chair@dept.fuller.edu](mailto:aic-chair@dept.fuller.edu)).

From the 2007-2008 Catalogue:

[http://documents.fuller.edu/registrar/catalogs/2007-08/10\\_Appendices/4\\_Community\\_Standards.asp](http://documents.fuller.edu/registrar/catalogs/2007-08/10_Appendices/4_Community_Standards.asp)

From the 2007-2008 Student Handbook:

[http://documents.fuller.edu/registrar/handbooks/sthb\\_200708/official\\_statements.asp#ACADINTEGRITY](http://documents.fuller.edu/registrar/handbooks/sthb_200708/official_statements.asp#ACADINTEGRITY)

## *Bibliography*

Note: It is against academic policy to claim credit for the same book in different Doctor of Ministry seminars. If you have previously read any book on the list for credit, substitute another for it.

### **Required Reading**

#### **What is the Church? (approx 600 pages)**

Braaten, Carl and Robert Jensen (eds.). *Marks of the Body of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. Read pages 1-166.

Kung, Hans. *The Church*. New York: Image Books, 1976. pages 21-455.

Yoder, John Howard. "A People in the World," *The Royal Priesthood*. Scottdale PA: Herald Press, 1998. Read pages 65-101.

#### **What is Post-Modernity? (approx 600 pages)**

Best, Steven and Douglas Kellner. *Postmodern Theory: Critical Interrogations*. New York: Guilford Press, 1991. 324 pp.

Borgmann, Albert. *Crossing the PostModern Divide*. Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1992. 173 pp.

Grenz, Stanley. *A Primer on PostModernism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1996. 196 pp.

Murphy, Nancy and James McClendon. "Distinguishing Modern and Postmodern Theologies." *Modern Theology* 5(1989). Read pages 191-214.

Toulmin, Stephen. *Cosmopolis: The Hidden Agenda of Modernity*. New York: Free Press, 1990. 228 pp.

#### **What is Post-Christendom? (approx 540 pages)**

Guder, Darrell L, ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998. Read pages 1-76.

Hall, Douglas John. *End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2002. 80 pp.

Hunsberger, George R. and Craig Van Gelder, eds. *The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1996. 369 pp (especially pp. xiii – 172).

Murray, Stuart. *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2004. 272 pp.

Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007. Read pages 111-170.

#### **How do we Practice Church? (approx 450 pages)**

Fitch, David. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism, and other Modern Maladies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005. 263 pp.

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Pub, 2003. 236 pp.

#### **How do we Plant Churches/Seed Communities? (approx 1000 pages)**

- Fitch, David on Missional Orders – video located at <http://allelon.org/ARTICLES/article.cfm?id=562>  
(counts as 50 pages of reading)
- Hjalmarson, Len. “The Birth of a Missional Order”- article located at  
[http://www.allelon.org/missional\\_journey/?p=107](http://www.allelon.org/missional_journey/?p=107)
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006. 295pp.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and those Desiring Renewal*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. 425 pp.
- Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. North American Edition. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001. 288 pp.
- Stetzer, Ed & David Putnam. *Breaking the Missional Code: Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006. 244 pp.
- Stock, Jon & Tim Otto & Jonathon Wilson-Hartgrove. *Inhabiting the Church: Biblical Wisdom for a New Monasticism*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2006. 140 pp.
- Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest: A Comprehensive Guide*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990. 156 pp.

### **Church Planting Handbooks**

- Tim Keller’s Redeemer Church Planting Manual available at  
<http://www.redeemer2.com/rstore/category.cfm?Category=23>
- Robert Logan’s Church Planter’s Toolkit available at  
<http://www.churchsmart.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=1007>
- Gary Rohrmayer’s FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church available at  
[http://garyrohrmayer.typepad.com/yourjourneyblog/Missional\\_Church\\_Planting\\_Manual.html](http://garyrohrmayer.typepad.com/yourjourneyblog/Missional_Church_Planting_Manual.html)
- Mark Driscoll’s Confessions of a reformation Rev.:Hard Lessons from an Emerging Missional Church (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006) plus the reading material available on the Acts 29 Network website available at  
<http://www.acts29network.org/resources/articles--excerpts/>

### **Recommended Reading**

#### **Approved Texts for Alternative Reading**

### **Church Planting**

- Akins, Dr. Thomas Wade. *Pioneer Evangelism*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Junta de Missoes Nacionais Convencao Batista Brasileira, 1999.
- Brock, Charles. *The Principles and Practice of Indigenous Church Planting*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.

Bunch, David T., Harvey J. Kneisel, and Barbara L. Oden. *Multihousing Congregations: How to Start and Grow Christian Congregations in Multihousing Communities*. Atlanta, GA: Home Mission Board, SBC, 1993.

Cheyney, Tom, J. David Putman and Van Sanders, eds. *Seven Steps for Planting Churches*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, SBC, 2003.

Conn, Harvie. *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1997.

Dale, Tony and Felicity. *Simply Church*. Austin, TX: Karis Publishing, 2002.

Francis, Hozell C. *Church Planting in the African American Context*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

Galloway, Dale and Warren Bird. *Starting a New Church: How to Plant a High-Impact Church*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2003.

Harris, Richard H., ed. *Reaching a Nation through Church Planting*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, SBC, 2002.

Herron, Fred. *Expanding God's Kingdom through Church Planting*. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse, 2003.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.

Hodges, Melvin. *The Indigenous Church*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1976.

Jones, Tom, ed. *Church Planting from the Ground Up*. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Company, 2004.

Moore, Ralph. *Starting a New Church*. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2002.

Morris, Linus. *High Impact Churches*. WestlakeVillage CA: Christian Associates Internationl, 1993)

Nebel, Tom. *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities*. St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2002.

Perry, Robert L. *Models of Multi-family Housing Ministry*. Atlanta, GA: Home Mission Board, SBC, 1989.

Reddin, Opal. *Planting Churches that Grow*. Springfield, MO: Central Bible College Press, 1990.

Redford, Jack. *Planting New Churches*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978

Roberts, Bob. *The Multiplying Church: The New Math of Starting New Churches*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Romo, Oscar I. *American Mosaic: Church Planting in Ethnic America*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.

Schaller, Lyle E. *Forty-four Questions for Church Planters*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991.

Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988.

Sjogren, Steve and Rob Lewin. *Community of Kindness*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003.

Stetzer, Ed. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003.

Suarez, Gustavo V. *Connections: Linking People and Principles for Dynamic Church Multiplication*. Friendswood, Texas: Baxter Press, 2004.

Sylvia, Ron. *Starting High Definition Churches*. Oscala, FL: High Definition Resources, 2004.

Tidsworth, Floyd. *Life Cycle of a New Congregation*. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.

Timmis, Stephen. *Multiplying Churches: Reaching Today's Communities through Church Planting*. Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus Publications, 2000.

Tinsley, William C. *Breaking the Mold: Church Planting in the 21st Century*. Dallas: Creative Church Consultations, Inc., 1996.

Towns, Elmer and Douglas Porter. *Churches that Miltiply: A Bible Study on Church Planting*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2003.

### **What is PostModernity? Cultural and Philosophical Origins**

Borgmann, Albert. *Crossing the PostModern Divide*. Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1992.

Connor, Steven. *PostModernist Culture: An Introduction to the Theory of the Contemporary*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1989.

Cunningham, Connor. *Genealogy of Nihilism* London: Routledge Publishers, 2002.

Gay, Craig M. *The Way of the (Modern) World* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Giddens, Anthony. *The Consequences of Modernity* Stanford CA.: Stanford University Press, 1990.

Giddens, Anthony. *Modernity and Self-Identity* Stanford CA.: Stanford University Press, 1991.

Grenz, Stanley. *A Primer on PostModernism* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Harvey, David. *The Condition of PostModernity* Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1990.

Jameson, Fredric. *Postmodernism, Or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1991.

Lakeland, Paul. *PostModernity Christian Identity in a Fragmented Age* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997).

Lyotard, Jean-Francois. *The Postmodern Explained* Minneapolis: University of Minnesots Press, 1997.

James McClendon Jr. *Witness: Systematic Theology Vol. 3* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000. ch. 5.

Van Hoozer, Kevin(ed.) *Cambridge Companion Guide to Postmodern Literature* Oxford: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (difficult)

Toulmin, Stephen. *Cosmopolis: The Hidden Agenda of Modernity*. New York: The Free Press, 1990.

Vieth, Gene Edward Jr. *PostModern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Wheaton IL.: Crossway Books, 1994.

Ward, Graham (ed.) *The PostModern God*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1997 (difficult) 1<sup>st</sup> essay

Westphal, Merold (ed.). *PostModern Philosophy and Christian Thought* Bloomington IN.: Indiana University Press, 1999.

## Finding Books

It is the student's responsibility to locate and read the assigned books before the course. However we would like to offer the following recommendations.

### Fuller Seminary Bookstore

We recommend Fuller Seminary Bookstore as your first step for purchasing books for the course. The Fuller Seminary Bookstore is able to offer a 20% discount on many textbooks. However, students can only receive this discount when securing textbooks for courses in which they plan to enroll. When a discount is available, it is already reflected in the listed price. You can make your orders with the bookstore in three ways:

1. on the web at [www.fullerseminarybookstore.com](http://www.fullerseminarybookstore.com)
2. by phone (626) 584-5624 or 1 (800) 235-2222 x.5624
3. by fax (626) 584-1270

Fuller Seminary Bookstore  
509 Walnut Street  
Pasadena, CA 91101

### Out of Print Books

Listed below are several ways to locate an out of print book:

1. Use the Interlibrary Loan.  
(i.e., Ask a local library to secure a book from another library which carries that particular book in stock. Fuller Library stocks many of the titles listed in our reading lists. Fuller Library can also provide copies of articles through the interlibrary loan.)  
When requesting a book from the Fuller Library, indicate that you are a Fuller student and the normal service charge will be waived.
2. Locate and use a seminary library in your area.
3. Locate a good used bookstore in your area.  
I.e: Archives Bookstore in Pasadena, CA (626-797-4756)
4. Contact the following bookstores with an excellent selection of used books:

Kregel's Bookstore, 525 Eastern SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616-459-9444).

Baker Book House, 2768 East Paris SE, Grand Rapids, MI  
49503 (616-957-3110)