



2022-2023 MATHENA CENTER FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION

36555 Church Revitalization Practicum
Mondays 1pm-2:30pm
Cooke Hall Conference Room

Faculty

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This internship will prepare aspiring pastors to provide the leadership and care needed to revitalize struggling, dying churches. The course will provide an academic foundation and practical experience in the three “stool legs” in our revitalization training:

- Pastoral Theology
- Healthy Ecclesiology
- Personal Soul Care

All three are required to serve and endure in a church revitalization environment. Interns will meet with revitalization leaders, including all Mathena Fellows, and receive one-on-one discipleship to help prepare for this unique work.

COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of the requirements of this course, the student will:

Understand the pastoral care and patience required when entering the community of a struggling congregation. Students will have the opportunity to study the theological framework and practical mechanics of congregational care.

Have a framework and model for understanding a multi-year strategy needed to return a struggling congregation to health. Students should develop a biblical understanding of the primacy of God’s sovereign care in the work of revitalization ministry, demonstrated primarily through shepherding the flock (1 Peter 5:2), prayer, and the ministry of the word (Act. 6:4).

Develop and maintain their own personal spiritual well-being. Students will be exposed to practices that will help deepen their love and relationship with Jesus and mitigate the spiritual risk intrinsic to church revitalization.

Be exposed to a broad range of pastors and church leaders who have worked in the area of church revitalization and successfully lead struggling churches to restoration.

COURSE MATERIALS

Alexander, Paul and Dever, Mark. *The Deliberate Church*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2005. ISBN# 1581347383

Carroll, James. *Collateral Damage*. Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2017. ISBN # 978152710003.

Clifton, Mark. *Reclaiming Glory*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2016. ISBN # 9781433643224.

Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization*. Glasgow: Christian Focus, 2016. ISBN# 9781781917664

Croft, Brian and Croft, Cara. *The Pastor's Family: Shepherding Your Family Through the Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. ISBN# 0310495091.

Croft, Brian. *The Pastor's Ministry: Biblical Priorities for Faithful Shepherds*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015. ISBN# 0310516595

Croft, Brian. *The Pastor's Soul: The Call and Care of an Undershepherd*. Watchmead, UK: EP Books, 2018. ISBN# 1783972386

Croft, Brian and Carroll, James. *Facing Snarls and Scowls*. Christian Focus, 2019. ISBN# 978-1527103825

Henard, William. *Can These Bones Live*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2015. ISBN# 1433683970

McClellan, Kyle. *Mea Culpa*. Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2015. ISBN# 1781915296

Piper, John. *The Roots of Endurance*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2002. ISBN # 1581348142

Reeder, Harry and Swavely, David. *From Embers to a Flame*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2004. ISBN# 0875525121

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Attendance and Participation

Because presence is so important to the work of church revitalization, interns are expected to be at all meetings and events. Anytime a non-emergency absence is required the intern is expected to communicate and receive permission from the Senior Fellow, preferably not less than 2 days prior to the scheduled time. Emergency absences should be communicated to the Senior Fellow as soon as is possible.

Reading Report

Each required text should be read reflectively, particularly focusing on how the material relates to the work of church revitalization. The interns will be required to complete five books per semester and will deliver an attestation on canvas at the end of the year stating how much of the reading they have completed.

Reading Roundtable & Pastoral Discussions

Interns will participate in specific discussions, moderated by the Senior Fellow to discuss assigned readings and talk with pastors involved in revitalization ministry. The schedule will show what books / chapters will be reviewed by roundtable dates during the year. Students should come to all roundtables ready to discuss what they learned from the reading, and ways it can help them in the practical aspects of ministry. Students should come to each roundtable with 4-5 one-sentence “insights” they gained from the assigned reading. Interns are expected to be present for these events and to participate in all discussions. Interns should plan on at least one meeting every two weeks for an hour and a half. **For a detailed reading schedule, go to last page of syllabus.**

Journaling

Students will journal once a week, preparing about 1-2 pages of text (double spaced) each time. These journals should reflect the soul work the student is doing, and reflections on how lessons can be practically applied in a local church context. Journals are turned in at the end of the semester with the Reflection Papers.

Journal entries may be typed and turned in as pdf or they can be handwritten, scanned, and sent in.

Reflection Paper #1

During final exam week of the first semester, students will turn in a 7–10-page reflection paper. In this paper the student will select one of the practical aspects of revitalization ministry (ie. *Guard the Truth, Preach the Word, Pray for the Flock, Set an Example, Visit the Sick, Comfort the Grieving, Care for the Widows, Confront Sin, Encourage the Weaker Sheep, Identify and Train Leaders*. See pgs. 16-17 of *The Pastors Ministry* for further information) and consider what the student has learned considering the three “legs” of revitalization ministry taught over the semester (pastoral theology, healthy ecclesiology, personal soul care). The paper should conclude with a short description of how the student would implement this ministry in a revitalization context. So, using the three “legs” of revitalization ministry as the body of the paper, students will address how one of these practical aspects will affect and/or be applied in each.

Reflection Paper #2

During final exam week of the second semester, students will turn in a 7–10-page reflection paper. This paper will ask the student to use journal entries to reflect on how the readings and conversations have impacted you over the course of the year.

Special Events

Interns will have the opportunity to participate in special events on campus such as Mathena Center panel discussions. While not required, interns should make every effort to attend. Interns can also discuss with the center staff any observation opportunities they would like to request (ie: Hospital Visit, Observe Service Planning). While these opportunities are not guaranteed, the center will help facilitate as time permits.

Prayer

Because the work of a Revitalization Pastor depends so much on the care for his flock, Interns will be expected to pray systematically for the members of their local churches. If an intern is a member of a church that does not support this practice, he should contact the Senior Fellow to make alternate arrangements.

Revitalization Retreat

During the Spring semester the Mathena Center will host a weekend retreat (Think 9Marks weekender style). All students taking the internship for elective credit are expected to attend. Those auditing the class are certainly welcome. The team will depart on a Saturday afternoon and return on Sunday evening after the worship service with our host church. This will be an interactive experience allowing the students to walk through a live “case-study” of a church coming out of a revitalization season. If you are the regular preaching pastor, please make necessary preparations as this is an important aspect of the internship.

Extensions for Assignments

Due to this being an internship in which students are being trained for pastoral ministry, turning assignments in on time is expected, as managing one’s time well and meeting deadlines is crucial for earning the trust of one’s congregation. The following should be considered when you are deciding whether to ask for an extension on an assignment: Have I endured a health, family, or vocational crisis? Please note, that inconveniences such as: a head cold, spotty internet, a shift change at work, or just “not planning well enough ahead,” are not sufficient occurrences to be invoked as a crisis. If you genuinely have had an unexpected crisis occur that demands you needing an extension on an assignment, it is expected that you reach out to the Student Associate at least one day before the due date and detail how this crisis has specifically affected your ability to turn the assignment in. Further, you will also be expected to initiate a specific date on which you are committing to turn the assignment in. At this point it is in the Student Associate’s discretion to permit the extension and whether there will be a grade penalization or not.

Any assignment that is turned in late will receive a minimum of a 25% grade penalization.

Grading

Grades will be compiled from the following components:

Participation in Pastoral Roundtables	30%
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Journaling	10%
Reading Report	5%
Directory Prayer	5%
Reflection Paper #1	25%
Reflection Paper #2	25%

Grading Scale

A	4.0 96-100	B	3.0 86-88	C	2.0 76-78	D	1.0 66-68
A-	3.7 93-95	B-	2.7 83-85	C-	1.7 73-75	D-	0.7 63-65
B+	3.3 89-92	C+	2.3 79-82	D+	1.3 69-72	F	0.0 0-62

POLICIES

Internship

It has been communicated, from registration to the syllabus discussion, that ALL participants in the internship will complete ALL assignments on the scheduled dates. ***This applies to those taking the elective course as well as those who are not. This is a requirement as an intern in the Mathena Center.*** All students will sign their name, covenanting to fulfill this expectation at the beginning of each internship.

Supervision

Interns report directly to the Senior Fellow of the Mathena Center, and as delegated by the Senior Fellow to Student Associate of the Mathena Center.

Academic Credit

The Church Revitalization Practicum is a year-long course. When registering Interns are expected to complete both the fall and spring semester to receive credit for a 3-hour elective in the second semester of the internship. If student is an employee at UPS and is looking to be reimbursed for the fall semester, please reach out to the student associate early on in the fall semester and arrangements can be made, especially if the student is graduating in December.

Special Needs

In order to ensure full participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, and special notetaking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the Student Associate at the beginning of the internship.

Syllabus Disclaimer

During the course of the semester the Senior Fellow reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the term.

Dress

Because the interns will often meet faculty and visitors to the Southern Campus, dress for all

Mathena Center events is business casual.

Integrity of Academic Work

All students are required to affirm their academic integrity when submitting all course work with the following statement, signed by the student (at the bottom of the title page):

On my honor, I have neither given nor taken improper assistance in completing this assignment

Fall Meeting	Lecture Topic(s)	Reading
1	Introduction to Internship and Syllabus Orientation to Mathena Center Model of Church Revitalization	Croft's <i>Biblical Church Revitalization</i>
2	The Work of the Revitalization Pastor	Croft's <i>The Pastor's Ministry</i>
3	The Rewarding, Redeeming Work of Church Revitalization	None
4	The Role of Preaching in Revitalization	Croft's <i>Facing Snarls and Scowls</i>
5	Faithfulness and Survival in Revitalization Ministry	Croft's <i>The Pastor's Soul</i>
6	A Long Patient Road to Faithfulness (5-10 Year Rule) <i>Interview with James Carroll</i>	Carroll's <i>Collateral Damage</i>
Spring Meeting	Lecture Topic(s)	Reading
1	Introduction to Second Term: Ecclesiology Matters	Alexander and Dever's <i>The Deliberate Church</i>
2	Picking Your Battles Wisely <i>Pastoral Interview with Matthew Spandler-Davidson</i>	Piper's <i>The Roots of Endurance</i>
3	Mistakes Made in Church Revitalization <i>Pastoral Interview with Kyle McClellan</i>	McClellan's <i>Mea Culpa</i>
April Date TBD	Weekender Training @ Castleview Church	None
4	Planting vs. Revitalization <i>Pastoral Interview with Pastor and Mathena Center Fellow Tim Beougher</i>	Clifton's <i>Reclaiming Glory</i>
5	Alternative Revitalization Strategies	Henard's <i>Can These Bones Live?</i>
6	Leading Your Family Through Revitalization	Croft's <i>The Pastor's Family</i>