

**NORTH POINT MINISTRIES**  
**EML 5819 (NP105): Partner Network & Global Missions**  
**SYLLABUS**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a study of North Point Ministries' model for campus expansion, partner network, and global missions. It will focus on the elements of managing our multi-site organization, resourcing and managing our partner network, and serving international organizations through global missions. The course will also address the systems in place to vet and train leaders and staff at both the local and international level. At the end of the course, the student will have a clear understanding of how North Point Ministries utilizes these systems and strategies to both help like-minded leaders thrive so their churches can grow, as well as engage people on a faith-building journey as they serve others around the world. (3 hours)

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Develop an understanding of the common tensions in a multi-site model and articulate the strategy of a multi-site model that uses a matrix organizational approach.
2. Defend the irreducible minimums for the NPM model to transfer to a partner.
3. Understand how community and geography affect ministry practice.
4. Consider the approach to international partnership based on cultural and contextual norms.
5. Discuss the catalytic impact of short-term trips on an individual's spiritual growth and global understanding.
6. Take a learning and service trip to a domestic strategic partner.
7. Understanding the purpose of the network partnership (innovation, collaboration)

**III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

**REQUIRED READING**

A. Stanley, Andy. *Irresistible*.

B. Les McKeown. *Predictable Success: Getting Your Organization on the Growth Track--and Keeping It There*.

C. Corbett, Steve. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty, Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself*

#### **IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

##### **A. Reading & Class Discussion (20%)**

Read required texts, articles, and supplemental course notes according to your module reading schedule. Required reading should be completed before the class date for which it is assigned. Grades will be determined by the reading report submitted to Canvas by the due date.

##### **B. Learning Activities (60%)**

In this course, each module will have corresponding Learning Activities that must be completed and submitted by the date listed in your schedule. Below are the Learning Activities for each module of this course. Please read through the entire list below and take note of the requirements for each assignment.

##### **C. Final Exam (20%)**

#### **V. Course Assignments**

##### **1. Personal Experience & Bias Discussion (Due by class on Jan. 21)**

Spend time contemplating your answers to the following questions and post your responses in two comprehensive paragraphs to your discussion board on Canvas. Once you have posted, respond to two of your classmates on the board.

###### **Paragraph 1**

- What is your current perspective on short term missions?
- Based on your experience, what is the purpose of short term missions?
- What do you feel like we provide to other cultures through short term missions?

###### **Paragraph 2**

- What did you grow up believing about Palestinians?

##### **2. Interview with Long Term Missionary (Due by class on Feb. 25)**

Set up a time to interview a long term missionary. (A list will be provided.)

- How did you discern your calling?
- What has this experience taught you about God?
- How has being a missionary aligned with or been different from your expectations?

Once your interview is complete, write a 2 page paper reflecting on your conversation. Take into account their story and any parallels you see in your own life. Reflect on what you think God was trying to show you through your conversation with this individual.

### 3. The Irreducible Minimum (Due by class on March 11)

Imagine you are a lead pastor of a church plant who is walking into an elder meeting. As the visionary of this church, it is ultimately up to you to decide what core ministries your church will offer and why. Considering what you've learned about the vision and strategy of network partnership, create a visual or chart that reflects the irreducible minimum of our church's ministry model. What are the core ministries and offerings that are foundational to our model? What is the win or purpose for each of those ministries/offerings? Why would you argue that each of the ministries you'll include is irreducible? For examples, research Core Value models of other organizations to get a picture of how they present their offerings and values.

### 4. Case Study Planning Brief

In preparation for the partner trip, research either the Houston or Austin metropolitan area and create a planning brief that outlines your proposal for planting an effective church in that city. Include area demographics that demonstrate your understanding of the city's needs and how the church plans to service the people uniquely based on those needs. Your planning brief should be 3-5 pages in length and should include supplementary images such as charts and photographs to assist in supporting your research.

- What should be offered at the church? Why?
- What is specific to location based on culture?
- What are the variables that may impact effectiveness in the context of this city?
- What staff and volunteers are necessary to effectiveness based on the strategy you are recommending?

### 5. Vetting Churches for Partnership (Due by class on April 15)

For the church you are assigned, watch a full message or two (especially the first 20-30 minutes) to evaluate the church for potential Partnership and/or a Leadership Community. Use what you have learned so far in NP105 to evaluate the church on the core tenants we've discussed and submit your notes on the church to Canvas. Where do you see alignment, where do you want to challenge, what is your recommendation?

### **Final Exam: Due on April 15**

The final exam for this course will be the capstone integrative project (RS103). Write a paper demonstrating your capacity and skill to integrate the theory and practice of ministry, and present a summary of your paper to the class and a panel of ministry staff.

Students will choose a ministry case at the beginning of the semester. The case may come from their own experience, or they may choose to craft a topic with their reader. The paper (10 pages) will be written as a pastoral response to the case. Once the paper is completed, the student will make a 10 minute video presenting what they learned, and how the project impacted them. See project instructions for more details.

## **VI. COURSE POLICIES**

### **A. Grading Weights**

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| 1. Reading & Class Discussion Participation | 20% |
| 2. Learning Activities                      | 60% |
| 3. Final                                    | 20% |

### **B. Late Assignments**

All assignments are due on the due date noted in your schedule. A 10% late penalty will be assigned for work turned in after the due date.

## **VII. COURSE SCHEDULE (See NP105 Session Plans for complete course schedule)**