225 Simple Church Disciple-making
Syllabus ©

Professor:
Training Center City:
Semester and Year:

Course Description
This course focuses on how to apply the components that make a church faithful to the Bible and relevant to the unchurched, so it is seeking to reach for Christ. Topics include making churches relevant through getting creative, spiritual, radical, real, truthful, multicultural, and connected to the community. Students will create visual projects and an action plan for reaching new generations through worship evangelism and ministry.

Course Design
This 14-week course is designed to equip pastors, church starters, leaders, and church members with Bible knowledge, Christian character, servant leadership skills, and teaching experience with the goal of change. It addresses the diverse learning styles of adults through active discussion, charts, visuals, Internet research, team-building, and project-based learning. To ensure transfer of credit, changes to this course syllabus must be approved by both Equip Biblical Institute and Southern California Seminary. Over 1,000 church members, leaders, church starters, and pastors have completed EBI courses. Suggestions for improving course design and content are appreciated.

Required Textbooks

Additional Books for Advanced Students and Pastors

To receive the MS Word version of the portfolio and notes, email gwoods@socalsem.edu.
Learning Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. Describe the simple revolution and the simple church in action.
2. Describe the simple church extreme makeover and three simple stories.
3. Describe becoming a simple church: clarity and movement.
4. Describe becoming a simple church: alignment and focus.
5. Describe becoming a simple church and introducing the essential church.
6. Describe why people leave the nonessential church.
7. Describe how essential churches close the back door.
8. Describe how churches can reach new generations by simplifying and deepening.
9. Contribute to a presentation on how to make disciples.
10. Type a 10-page term paper--action plan for becoming a simple-essential church.

Methods of Instruction

Instruction emphasizes active learning, problem-based learning, project-based learning, collaborative team-based learning, reflection, discussion, interactive lecture, story-telling, drama, visuals, term papers, and exams, with the goal of long-term and real-world learning that results in life-change and leading healthy churches. The major pedagogical premise of this course is that students should be treated like the professionals they are becoming. Dr. Gary C. Woods has served as the Bible Department Chairman and Registrar at Southern California Seminary. Dr. Woods has taught for Liberty University and Luther Rice Seminary. He has a Doctor of Education in Technology and Learning from Alliant International University, a Master of Divinity in Missions from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science in Cross-Cultural and Pastoral Ministry from Liberty University. He has served as a Southern Baptist pastor and church planter with the North American Mission Board.

Authentic learning involves observation, interpretation, and application. The goal of balanced instruction is to address the learning strengths of diverse adult learners, including verbal, visual, musical, logical, kinesthetic, reflective, interpersonal, natural, and spiritual. Student-centered instruction is most effective when it impacts the mind, the will, and the emotions. TEAM-based Learning: Students are encouraged to study in teams before or after class for at least one hour per week working on study skills, application skills, individual projects, and group projects. Students do not give answers to co-learners, but help them learn how to find the answers. Everyone contributes to the learning process. TEAM = Together Everyone Accomplishes More

In this course students are mentored by Dr. Thom S. Rainer (Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), president of LifeWay, founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is president of Church Central (www.ChurchCentral.com). A frequent conference and seminar speaker, he has served as a pastor and interim pastor in ten churches and is president of Rainer Group Church Consulting http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/mainpage/0,1701,M%253D200927,00.html).
Student Requirements

First, answer the questions in the portfolio before class. This will assist student-leaders in focusing on core information and developing the time-on-task study skills and writing skills essential to effective learning and long-term memory.

Second, maintain the journal in the portfolio. (1) What is God teaching you in this session? (2) How are you going to apply these concepts to your life, family, and ministry? (3) How can your church apply these concepts to making disciples and developing leaders? This will assist student-leaders in developing reflection, application, and decision-making skills essential to spiritual growth.

Third, participate in the discussion of the questions and applications in the portfolio during class. Through discussion students learn from one another and sharpen one another as iron sharpens iron. This will assist student-leaders in developing the relational, speaking, and creative/critical thinking skills essential to effective teaching and servant-leadership.

Fourth, complete the midterm exam. This will assist student-leaders in developing long-term memory through multiple reviews of the core material. Week 7

Fifth, participate in an individual or group presentation on one of the chapters in Master Plan of Evangelism. Discuss applications found in that book. This presentation can be a PowerPoint, drama, role-play, charts, or drawings. This will assist student-leaders in developing the creative/critical thinking and teamwork skills essential to effective teaching and servant-leadership. Week 13

Sixth, type a 10-page term paper titled Action Plan for Simple Church Disciple Making. Footnote all the ideas, paraphrases, and direct quotes in your paper, whether from books or the Internet. Font should be Times New Roman 12. Include illustrations and charts. This will assist student-leaders in developing the creative/critical thinking and writing skills essential to effective biblical teaching, preaching, and servant-leadership. Week 13

Seventh, complete the final exam in the portfolio. This will assist student-leaders in developing long-term memory through multiple reviews of the core material and in focusing on transformational leadership and teaching skills. Week 14

Course Objective. Our mission is to bring glory to God by assisting local churches to equip believers to live and minister biblically based on the inerrant Word of God. This equipping includes Bible knowledge, Christian character, and ministry skills. The objective is to take student-leaders from where they are and move them to where they need to be. Students will learn how (1) to read with their brains, (2) to remember what they have read, (3) to sharpen their thoughts through journaling, (4) to speak effectively before others, (5) to work as learning teams of leaders, and (5) to biblically apply what they are learning to life, family, and ministry.

Adults learn in unique ways and so this course incorporates multiple learning styles. According to the Cone of Learning, writing, discussing, and applying concepts are more effective learning strategies than the boring lectures used in many schools. The portfolio is foundational to learning because students remember more of what they write, discuss, and apply. By applying these concepts of champion learners, students will experience transformational growth. Welcome to the disciple-making process!
Sequence of Instruction
Read the table like this: “At Session ____ on __________, the scheduled session content is ________, and the assignment due that session is ________.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Content</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1       |      | *The Simple Revolution Has Begun The Simple Church in Action*  
Go over this Syllabus and the Portfolio.  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.  
Group Activity: Create a visual summary of one the chapters.  
Demonstrate how to use the *Life Application Bible* and the *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* to find information on making disciples.  
Demonstrate examples of a term paper. | • Print 225 Simple Church Disciple-Making Portfolio.  
• Study introduction and chapters 1-2 in *Simple Church*.  
• Study lesson 1 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
• Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications in preparation for the discussion and group activity.  
• Read the Baptist Faith and Message [http://www.sbc.net/printfriendly.asp](http://www.sbc.net/printfriendly.asp) |
| 2       |      | **Simple Church: An Extreme Makeover**  
**Three Simple Stories**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.  
Group Activity: Create a visual summary of a simple church. | • Study chapters 3-4 in *Simple Church*.  
• Study lesson 2 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
• Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 3       |      | **Clarity: a Ministry Blueprint Movement: Removing Congestion**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.  
Group Activity: Create a visual summary of clarity or movement. | • Study chapters 5-6 in *Simple Church*.  
• Study lesson 3 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
• Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 4       |      | **Alignment: Maximizing the Energy of Everyone Focus: Saying No to Almost Everything**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.  
Group Activity: Create a visual summary of alignment or focus. | • Study chapter 7-8 in *Simple Church*.  
• Study lesson 4 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
• Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 5       |      | **Becoming Simple Simple Life, Part 1**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.  
Group Activity: Create a visual summary of becoming a simple church. | • Study chapter 9 in *Simple Churches*.  
• Study lesson 5 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
• Read notes on Simple Life.  
• Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 6       |      | **Simple Life, Part 2** | • Read notes on Simple Life. |

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[www.shadowmountain.org/ebi](http://www.shadowmountain.org/ebi)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of the simple life.</td>
<td>Study lesson 6 in <em>Master Plan of Evangelism</em>. Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7       |      | **Midterm Exam**  
Take the midterm exam.  
Encourage students to share what they have learned.  
Preview the second half of the course.  
Work on term paper in class. | Review the study guide to prepare for midterm. Five hours of study are recommended.  
Work on term paper.  
Enroll in the next course.  
Pay for textbooks for the next course. |
| 8       |      | **My Faith is not my Parents’ Faith Looking for a Different Kind of Community**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of why people leave the nonessential church. | Study the introduction in *Essential Church*.  
Study chapters 1-2 in *Essential Churches*.  
Study lesson 7 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
Study the notes on *The Unchurched Next Door*.  
Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 9       |      | **That’s Life! It Changes A New Spin on Hypocrisy**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of why people leave the nonessential church. | Study chapter 3-4 in *Essential Churches*.  
Study lesson 8 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
Study the notes on *Breakout Churches*.  
Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 10      |      | **All Eyes on the Main Man The Essential Church and the Back Door**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of closing the back door. | Study chapters 5-6 in *Essential Churches*.  
Study lesson 9 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
Study the notes on *High Expectations*.  
Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
| 11      |      | **Simplify: Getting the Structure Right Deepen: Getting the Content Right**  
Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of closing the back door. | Study chapters 7-8 in *Essential Churches*.  
Study lessons 10-11 in *Master Plan of Evangelism*.  
Study the notes on *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*.  
Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications. |
<p>| 12      |      | <strong>Expect: Getting the Attitude Right</strong> | Study chapters 9-10 in <em>Essential Churches</em>. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Multiply: Getting the Action Right</strong></td>
<td>Churches.</td>
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<td>Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.</td>
<td>Study lessons 12-13 in <em>Master Plan of Evangelism</em>.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Group Activity: Create a visual summary of becoming a simple-essential-breakout</td>
<td>Study the notes on <em>Leading the Established Church</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>church.</td>
<td>Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Student Presentations and Term Papers</strong></td>
<td>Prepare for group or individual presentations.</td>
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<td>Student presentations.</td>
<td>Bring a rough draft of your term paper for peer-review.</td>
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<td>Review for final exam.</td>
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<td>Work on term paper.</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam and Course Evaluation</strong></td>
<td>Review the study guide for the final exam.</td>
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<td>Take final exam.</td>
<td>Complete the 10-page term paper.</td>
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<td>Submit portfolio for grading.</td>
<td>Complete the portfolio.</td>
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<td>Submit term paper.</td>
<td>Distribute the textbooks, syllabi, and portfolios for the next course.</td>
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<td>Students will debrief by sharing how they are using what they have learned.</td>
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</table>

Notice: EBI holds to the *Baptist Faith and Message*. The inclusion of articles, books, or external links in this list does not imply that the opinions expressed represent the official position of EBI.

**Webliography: Church Relevance External Links**

13. Evangelistic conversation starters [http://www.biblicalspirituality.org/art10q.html#gospelq](http://www.biblicalspirituality.org/art10q.html#gospelq)
17. Faith [http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0,1703,A=150519&M=50024,00.html](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0,1703,A=150519&M=50024,00.html)
21. Leadership Journal Church Research  
   http://store.yahoo.com/buildingchurchleaders/specialreports.html
22. LifeWay.com evangelism articles  
   http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/mainpage/0,1701,M%253D50090,00.html
23. Mission America Coalition evangelism articles  
   http://66.179.80.180/cgi-bin/gx.cgi/applogic+ftcontentserver?pagename=FaithHighway/10000/3000/671MI/evangelism
27. Sharing With Other Faiths http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=224393
29. Steps to Peace with God http://www.fishthe.net/steps/steps1.htm  
   http://www.billygraham.org/SH_StepsToPeace.asp
   http://www.cbmc.com/tools/gospel/steps2peace.htm  
   http://members.cox.net/wwcw/index4.html
   http://www.countrytrailband.org/steps/steps.htm
30. The NET articles http://www.namb.net/evangelism/thenet/
32. Witnessing to Catholics http://www.justforcatholics.org/links.htm  
   http://www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/beliefs/catholicism.html
   http://www.gnfc.org/  
   http://www.contenderministries.org/catholicism.php
33. Witnessing to Postmoderns http://www.onmission.com/webzine/jan_feb02/post_moderns.htm
   http://www.onmission.com/webzine/sept_oct02/truthquest.htm
   http://www.onmission.com/webzine/sept_oct02/on_mission_resources.htm
   http://www.onmission.com/webzine/mar_apr00/ready_answers.htm
   http://www.onmission.com/webzine/sept_oct02/postmodern_postcards.htm
   http://www.leaderu.com/cl-institute/openforum/
34. Shadow Mountain Community Church www.shadowmountain.org
35. Turning Point articles http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/Turning_Point/Article_Archives.asp
36. Turning Point Hot Topics http://www.turningpointradio.org/hot_topics.html

Course Bibliography

Aldrich, Joseph C. Life-Style Evangelism: Crossing Traditional Boundaries to Reach the Unbelieving World. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1981. 0880700238
Haggard, Ted. Primary Purpose: Making It Hard for People to Go to Hell from Your City. Orlando, FL: Creation House, 1995.


**Transfer of Credits to Southern California Seminary**

**Attendance Policy**

Attending class on time is important to receive the most out of the course. Entering class late disrupts the learning process of all students. Students are permitted three absences for a 14-week semester course. For the semester (28 classroom hours plus 56 homework hours) courses, more than 10 minutes late is a *Tardy;* more than 20 minutes late is an *Absence.* Two tardies count as one absence. College credit cannot be transferred to Southern California Seminary when a student misses four or more class sessions. A grade of NC (No Credit) will be recorded when a student misses four sessions or does not complete coursework on time. Exceptions must be *approved in writing* by the class instructor, the Site Director, and the Director of Equip Biblical Institute and will involve additional assignments mandated by Equip Biblical Institute.

**Class Time and Homework Policy**

To transfer credits to Southern California Seminary, each 2-unit course must include at least 28 hours of class time discussion and 56 hours of portfolio homework during the 14 week semester. Courses with less than 28 hours of class time do not meet EBI requirements. Since “Time plus focus equals learning” increased classroom time and active learning results in increased learning—and learning is the key to leadership and service. Courses start the first or second week of January, May, and September. For maximum learning, it is recommended that working students take 2 courses per semester or 6 courses per year.

**Late Work Policy**

Completing work on time is an important habit for leaders to develop. Homework should be completed weekly before the class discussion and application. Work that is between 1 and 7 days late is lowered by 20%. Work that is between 8 and 14 days late is lowered by 40%. **Work that is over 14 days late will not be accepted** except in special cases such as hospitalization or death. Professors are required to send to the EBI offices the grade sheet within 15 days of the end of each course so that transcripts can be updated.

**Portfolio Policy**

To transfer credits from Equip Biblical Institute to Southern California Seminary, students must present a complete portfolio of their course work. The portfolio consists of the questions, journal applications and reflections, term papers, and exams for each course. Upon successful completion of the Associate of Biblical Studies, students may transfer 60 units into the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. If the portfolio for a course is not complete, the credits may not be transferable.
Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
<td>950-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
<td>900-949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>NC</td>
<td>Below 70%</td>
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Student Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio/Group Activities</td>
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<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Equip Biblical Institute
Church Planting * Team Leadership * Pastors Institute
2100 Greenfield Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019

Report Card

Today’s Date
Name of EBI Training Center

First
Middle
Last Name

Street
City
State/Country
Zip

Home Phone
Cell or Work Phone
Email

Year
Fall (September-December) Spring (January-April) Summer (May-August)

☐ Check if any information above needs to be updated.

Course Code | Course Title | Start Date | End Date | Units | Grade
-------------|--------------|------------|----------|-------|-------
225          | Simple Church Discipline-making | | | 2 | |

This student earned the above grade.

Professor Signature
Printed Name
Date

Order textbooks at least six weeks before the course starts.

(1) The professor will grade the Portfolio and return this Report Card to the student with the grade.
(2) The professor will complete and sign the Student Roster and Grade Sheet and return it to the Center Director for his signature.
(3) The Center Director will keep the Student Roster and Grade Sheet in the training center files.
(4) The Center Director will mail or email the Student Roster and Grade Sheet to gwoods@socalsem.edu.

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El Cajon, CA 92019-1161