

**Syllabus for Church and Community Exegesis: PM 522m**  
**CREDIT HOURS: 2**

**Purpose for the Course:** This course will instruct students in how to assess and evaluate their churches our ministries systemically and determine the systemic problems that require spiritual direction. It will also aid students the systemic evaluation of their present communities, aiding them in understanding and respecting the different cultures around them in order to make their outreach and ministries more effective.

**Requirements for the Course**

- A. Faithful attendance to and active participation in all class sessions. Please read the section on absences in the Student Handbook for the impact of absences on grades.
- B. The development and use of analytical processes to understand the spiritual history and needs of the student's local church and the community in which it ministers.
- C. The development of strategic vision for leading local ministry to health and more effective ministry to its community.
- D. Readings as assigned
- E. Assignments and quizzes related to the lecture content of classes

**Course Reading and Materials**

Quick, Kenneth. *Healing the Heart of Your Church*. St. Joseph, Ill: ChurchSmart Resources, 2003.

Quick, Kenneth. *Body Aches*. St. Joseph, Ill: ChurchSmart Resources, 2009.

Friedman, Edwin. *Generation to Generation*. New York: The Guilford Press, 1985.

A census report for your church community within the city or zip code and the two closest zip codes of the local church (Found at : <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>)

**Grading for the Course**

Class attendance –	10 %
Class participation –	10 %
Class reading and Freidman report –	20 %
Pre Course Assignments–	25 %
Post Course Assignments–	35 %

**Objectives for the Course**

- A. To understand the implications of the local church as a corporate system
- B. To analyze the history of a local church and pinpoint the defining moments that have shaped its ministry
- C. To determine the long-term implications of the defining moments of a local church and design a strategy for healing any destructive/dysfunctional patterns
- D. To analyze census data regarding the community of a local church and determine some long term strategic goals based upon the data
- E. To develop and implement a survey of the community surrounding a local church to determine the attitudes toward spiritual things among a sample of the populace

Pre-Course Assignments (to be completed by first day of class, papers handed in first hour)

1. Read Quick, all chapters. Do this early as it will guide you in the next assignment.
2. After reading Quick, begin to gather data/stories about your local church's history and ministry into a notebook. Arrange the stories chronologically. Bring this data, as much as you have been able to gather, to class. We will work through some of the student's gathered data in the class. In the pre-course, determine:
  - a. When and how the church began and the vision of the charter members for it
  - b. The major "epochs" in the history/life of the church
  - c. Some of the critical moments, both positive and negative, which have occurred throughout the church's history.
  - d. Interview some of the leaders and old-timers in the congregation for this info.
3. Read and write a 3 page, single-spaced report evaluating Freidman's Generation to Generation. Highlight those areas that seem to have particular validity in relation to your/your church's ministry, and those principles you find/may find useful in your own ministry.

### Post-Course Assignments

*Assignment due* **Friday, March 12, 2004 at 12:00 noon.**

#### **EACH STUDENT DOES THE FOLLOWING:**

Analyze the 2000 census report data and other marketing information available for the community (zip code) surrounding your local church. Look at the details of this report (ethnicity, socio-economics, age, etc.) and determine five strategic ministry directions for your church in the next 10 years *based on this information*. Each "strategic direction" should have its own section in your report with accompanying data to explain it. This census data can be obtained at:

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>

<http://www.abacon.com/pubspeak/analyze/demog.html>

<http://cluster1.claritas.com/claritas/Default.jsp> (a cost is involved for this more specific analysis)

<http://www.percept1.com/pacific/start.asp>

#### **EACH STUDENT CHOOSES ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MOST RELEVANT TO YOUR MINISTRY AT THIS TIME:**

1. Finish the "spiritual history" of your church and write a 5 page, single-spaced analysis on this information, including recommendations and appropriate steps to corporate healing if necessary. Include in this a letter written by Jesus in the style of Revelation 2-3, outlining what you believe He is saying to your church in the light of its history.
2. Do a basic Ministry Toolbox survey of your congregation to determine its present ministry strengths and weaknesses. Write a 5 page report outlining the results and projected plans to address your church's needs.

You will be penalized one grade point for every day it is late, no excuses or exceptions. If you are going to be gone during the due date, you must get it in before you leave.

**Modular Class Schedule (June 21-25, 2010)**

## Daily Schedule

9:00 am - 10:30	Class
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 - 12:00	Class
12:00 pm - 1:00	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00 - 2:15	Class
2:15 - 2:30	<i>Break</i>
2:30 - 4:00	Class