



Skandinavisk
Teologisk
Högskola

Syllabus

Principles of Church Growth (3 cr)

Graduate level

Area of studies: Practical Theological studies

Course code: PRM 544

Prerequisites

BA-degree and GTHE517

Course goals

I. The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Learn to develop a theological base for understanding the church and its growth.
- B. Learn to engage in Holy-Spirit led strategizing which allows God to work through human vessels in producing church growth.
- C. Learn to assess which historical and present-day church growth principles, models and methods encourage or inhibit church growth.
- D. Acquire the skills to assess what factors may be inhibiting or creating growth in a local church setting, and then the ability to recommend how future growth could be initiated or continued in that same local church.

II. As a result completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Describe theologically the nature and mission of the church and the nature and mission of the kingdom of God. Explain how church growth and kingdom growth are alike and different.
- B. Explain the roles of the Holy Spirit and of people in the process of church growth.

- C. Identify historical and present-day principles, models and methods which contribute to or detract from church growth.
- D. Evaluate a local church in order to assess what factors may be inhibiting or creating growth. Make recommendations for strategies that could be adopted to initiate more growth or continue the growth that is taking place.

Content

An introduction to the spiritual dynamics, Biblical basis, and sociological phenomena concerned with church growth. Examines the historical roots of the Church Growth Movement and current approaches to growing churches. Includes both theoretical and strategic dimensions.

Course procedures

A. Evaluation Procedures:

1. Grading Scale

VG/High Pass =	75-100%
G/Pass =	50-74%
U/No Pass =	0-49%

2. Assignments

Interaction with McGavran	20%
Interaction with Warren	20%
Church Consulting Report	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

B. Description of Assignments:

1. Interaction with McGavran. Each student will write a four page interaction with McGavran. The first two pages will be a summary of the text. The last two pages will be a critique and interaction with the book content.
2. Interaction with Warren. Each student will write a four page interaction with Warren. The first two pages will be a summary of the text. The last two pages will be a critique and interaction with the book content.
3. Church Consulting Report: Each student will write a five page consulting report for their own local church or another local church in Scandinavia. The report

will assess the health of the church and make specific recommendations for areas of development.

4. Final Exam: Each student will complete a final exam based on the readings and class lectures.

Course literature

Aronson, Torbjörn: *Ett nytt karismatiskt landskap i Sverige*. Areopagos, Uppsala, 2016

McGavran, Donald A. *Understanding Church Growth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970

Nilsson, Sven: *Evangelium om riket. Hur den lokala församlingen blir ett uttryck för Guds rike*. Livets Ords Förlag, Uppsala, 2017 (2:a uppl)

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995

Se i övrigt ”Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser”

Kursplanen fastställd 2017-05-09

Kursplanen gäller fr.o.m. 2017-05-09