

# Introduction to NOBTS, the SBC, and the Cooperative Program

## COOP 5000 – Spring 2016

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

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### **NOBTS Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with a brief history of NOBTS, the SBC, and the Cooperative Program, as well as their current leadership and operation. Students will also gain in this course an understanding of the significance and relationship of the Cooperative Program to the SBC and NOBTS, and how the Cooperative Program not only assists all NOBTS students, but also assists the churches of the SBC in fulfilling the Great Commission. Lessons learned from the past inform the present and provide guidance for the future.

### **Core Value Focus**

**Mission Focus** -- Our purpose is not merely to get an education but to be equipped to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. Our desire is to follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

*Theological and Historical Heritage* – overview of the history and purpose of the Cooperative Program and its importance to NOBTS and the SBC

*Mission Focus* – the Great Commission and Great Commandments can be more effectively and efficiently achieved by giving through the Cooperative Program

*Disciple Making* – explain how the CP helps believers become effective stewards of God's resources

*Servant Leadership* – giving beyond the needs of our local congregations to help others in ministry deepens our faith and trust in God

*Spiritual and Character Formation* – demonstrate the value of working together to expand God's kingdom

*Biblical Exposition* – demonstrate the biblical foundation for cooperative ministry

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who satisfactorily complete this course by fulfillment of the requirements should be able:

1. To understanding of the history, development, and function of NOBTS, the SBC, and the Cooperative Program;

2. To understanding of the specific relationship between the Cooperative Program and NOBTS;
3. To understand the relationship of an SBC local church to the SBC and to the Cooperative Program
4. To understand the purpose and function of the Southern Baptist Convention;
5. To identify and articulate the purpose of each denominational entity associated with and supported by the Cooperative Program;
6. To value the Cooperative Program as a missionary and evangelistic tool;
7. To explore the opportunities for participating in the various ministries supported by the Cooperative Program.
8. To support the work of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

### **Web-Based Learning**

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

### **Required Materials**

The text is provided to the student free of charge by the SBC Executive Committee and LifeWay

Brand, Chad and David Hankins. *One Sacred Effort: The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2005.

This text is available free in digital form. It can used on the PC or on an i-Pad or i-Phone. To obtain your free digital copy, first go to [www.mywsb.com](http://www.mywsb.com). You will need to register as a user. After you log in, click on the “Redeem” link at the left side of the page. Enter the code for this title, **XVY1QSSKAT**. To redeem the code, simply put in the code and hit enter. Once downloaded, the book will show up in the “Library” area under on the left. This site also gives you access to multiple Bible translations and other study helps. There is no cost for this.

Hard copies of the book are available on request from the Dean of Students Office.

### **Recommended Materials**

Cooperative Program web site. [www.cpmmissions.net/](http://www.cpmmissions.net/)

Your state convention web site. [www.sbc.net/stateconventionsearch/](http://www.sbc.net/stateconventionsearch/)

Sullivan, James L. *Baptist Polity—As I See It*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Rope of Sand with Strength of Steel*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1974.

Vestal, Daniel and Robert A. Baker. *Pulling Together! A Practical Guide to the Cooperative Program*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987.

## Course Requirements

### Orientation

All NOBTS students must attend the CP class conducted during new student orientation. The session will provide an overview of the syllabus, course expectations, basic instruction, and discussion regarding the class. Students will register for the class during registration, will enroll in Blackboard, and be given access to the course in Blackboard. **Students are expected to access the course materials on Blackboard** and go through all materials in their entirety, and to be responsible to know and understand these materials for the exam. See below for instructions on how to create a Blackboard account. Students are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the materials in the recommended materials section.

### CP Survey

Students will take a brief survey (2-3 minutes) about the Cooperative Program as soon as possible after entering the course. The survey helps us know how familiar students are with the Cooperative Program when they enter NOBTS. It will also familiarize students with testing formats in Blackboard. **Due by 11:59 pm Central Standard Time, on February 1, 2016.** There is no grade for completing this survey. However, the survey must be completed in order to gain access to the rest of the course material.

### Book Review

Students will read and write a review of the book *One Sacred Effort*. The assignment should consist of:

- (a) a Turabian/NOBTS style **cover page** (find a sample in blackboard under “Assignment 2 – Book Review”, then click on Book Review Instructions),
- (b) a one paragraph **summary** for each chapter of the book, describing the primary points and/or major ideas of the chapter,
- (c) a concluding **assessment** describing how the book expanded and enhanced the student’s understanding of the Cooperative Program.

The summary and assessment combined are to be between 1200 and 1500 words, typed single-spaced in Times New Roman (12 pt.). Citations from *One Sacred Effort* may be done with parenthetical references—just the page number in parentheses. See below for deadline and instructions on how to submit the assignment.

### *Tips for writing*

Writing the summary:

- ★ Read the book, highlighting the major point(s) of the chapter
- ★ Compile notes for each chapter and note only the main points
- ★ Summarize the main points into a few sentences
- ★ One paragraph per chapter
- ★ When shifting between main themes, include page numbers in parenthetical notation to indicate where the point can be found in the book
- ★ Parenthetical notations consist of only the page number inside parentheses
- ★ Use direct quotations sparingly and only when unavoidable
- ★ Like all formal writing, do not use first person or contractions

Writing the personal assessment

- ★ For this part of the assignment first person is allowed and encouraged

- ★ Describe how the book expanded and enhanced your understanding of the Cooperative Program This is not a critique of the book but what you learned about the Cooperative Program

The summary and personal assessment are to fall between 1200 and 1500 words.

The paper is worth **70 points** and will be evaluated according to the following manner:

Summary	45 pts
Assessment	15 pts
Grammar	5 pts
Style	5 pts

Deadline for completion of the book review is by **11:59 pm, Central Standard Time, March 1, 2016.** This is a firm deadline. **NO** late papers will be accepted, but can be turned in before the deadline, so plan early to avoid computer problems and unexpected conflicts.

### *Follow the CP Dollar Spreadsheet*

Prepare a three-page “Follow the CP Dollar” spreadsheet showing how your contribution of \$100, given to your home congregation, is used in joint ministry through the Cooperative Program. The spreadsheet is worth **30 points**. Examples of each page are provided in Blackboard.

Section 1 will be a summary of your home congregation’s budget (1-page minimum). Use general categories (salaries, facilities) and subcategories (missions: CP, local, association) for clarity. List both the percentage of the budget and the dollar amount for each area (see example of First Baptist, New Orleans in Blackboard). Note how much of your \$100 is forwarded for ministry through the Cooperative Program.

Section 2 will be a 1-page summary of your home state convention’s budget. List all the major areas where state CP dollars are spent. General categories and subcategories may be used for clarity. Include the percentage of CP dollars used by the state convention and what percentage are forward on to SBC ministries. Note the amount of your contribution used in each area. (A good example is the Louisiana Baptist Convention budget—see example in Blackboard.)

Section 3 will be a 1-page summary of the SBC’s budget showing how the portion of CP giving forwarded to the SBC is allocated. Under “Theological Education Ministries,” note the percentages that each seminary will receive based upon the most recent SBC budget (the percentages vary from year to year). This will help you see how your home congregation used your tithe, how your home state uses your Cooperative Program dollar and how much of it eventually goes toward missions and to subsidizing your education.

\*\*\*\*If you are not a Southern Baptist or are not attending a Southern Baptist church, use the budget from the church you are attending to complete page 1. Combine the amounts your church gives for church planting and international missions. Consider this amount to be the Cooperative Program portion, then use the Southern Baptist state convention where you live and the SBC budget to complete the assignment as if you were part of the SBC.

Deadline for completion of the book review and CP Dollar spreadsheet is by **11:59 pm, Central Standard Time, April 1, 2016.** This is a firm deadline. No late papers will be accepted, but can be turned in before the deadline, so plan early to avoid computer problems and unexpected conflicts.

### *Final Exam*

Students are required to take the final examination for this course on the Blackboard course pages. The final exam is comprehensive and is based upon the materials required for the course. Click on “Assignment 4 – Final Exam” to find the notes and the exam. Students are expected to answer appropriately and correctly all questions on the exam within the **1 hour** allotted for the exam. The exam is **“open book,”** so you may have your notes in front of you. However, once the exam is started, it must be completed within an hour’s time and it cannot be retaken. Final exams will be accessed and administered on the NOBTS electronic Blackboard system, and the grade will be posted in the Blackboard gradebook

for the class. The exam is worth **100 points**.

Deadline for completion of the exam is **11:59 pm, Central Standard Time, May 2, 2016**. *Failure to complete the exam by this date will result in failing grade for the course.*

### Grading

Students must successfully complete all course requirements in order to receive a passing grade. Grades will be assessed on a “Pass” or “Fail” basis, so an average of 70 percent over all three assignments is necessary to pass the course. Students may complete the course requirements any time prior to the deadline. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the course requirements and submit them **BEFORE** the deadline to avoid last minute internet problems.

Grades will be posted in “My Grades” in Blackboard as they become available. Grading of the book review and CP spreadsheet will begin after a sufficient number have been received, usually at or near the due date.

Please note that **NO LATE PAPERS or EXAMS will be accepted**.

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