

BAPTIST HERITAGE - HIST 5223

SPRING 2016

INTERNET

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This course begins on **January 19, 2016**, and, by that date, students should have access to Blackboard, where they will find information and instructions about the course. Prior to that time, students should purchase the texts and be ready to participate in the course. The reading schedule is included in this syllabus so that, once students have secured the textbooks, they can begin reading their assignments.

Seminary 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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of theological and historical studies. Lessons learned from the past inform the present and provide guidance for the future.

Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The core value focus of the course will emphasize this semester is **mission focus**. The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of Baptist formation and development

Disciple Making – use the people from our past to model Christ-like behavior

Servant Leadership – use the people from our past to model servant leadership

Spiritual and Character Formation – model Christian character in relating to those in the Baptist family with whom we disagree

Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation for Baptist distinctives

Worship Leadership – examine the variety of worship styles and practices used by Baptists

Course Description

This course surveys Baptist history, polity, and theology from seventeenth-century origins to the present, with primary emphasis on developments in England and North America. Attention is given to Anabaptist and English Separatist antecedents, intellectual and social currents that have shaped Baptist life and thought, institutional developments, theological distinctives and crises, the shaping of Baptist polity and contributions of selected Baptist leaders.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the distinctive characteristics of Baptists from seventeenth-century origins to the present to the process of interpreting Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
2. Value the ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions that form Baptist heritage.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to accomplish the following:
 - Practice the historical method and historiography in order to interpret Baptist heritage for the local church.
 - Articulate and defend evangelical and Baptist positions on specific theological issues.
 - Place individuals, movements, and ideas in their proper context in Baptist history.
 - Analyze and evaluate existing Baptist confessions of faith in order to create a personal confession of faith.

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 Texts

There are three (3) required books for this class. These books complement one another as tools for understanding our Baptist heritage.

[L] Leonard, Bill. *Baptist Ways: A History*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2003.

[W] Wardin, Albert W., ed. *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the U.S.A.* Atlanta: Baptist History and Heritage Society, 2007.

[B&W] Blount, Douglas K. & Joseph D. Wooddell. *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. Lanham, MD: Roman & Littlefield, 2007.

Recommended texts:

Brand, Chad and R. Stanton Norman. *Perspectives on Church Government*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2003.

Dever, Mark and Jonathan Leeman, eds. *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2015.

Grenz, Stanley J. *The Baptist Congregation*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1985; reprint, Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 1998.

Lumpkin, William L., ed. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, rev. ed. 1969.

McBeth, H. Leon. *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman, 1990.

Norman, R. Stanton. *More Than Just a Name: Preserving Our Baptist Identity*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.

_____. *The Baptist Way: Distinctives of a Baptist Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005.

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

Wardin, Albert W., ed. *Baptists Around the World: A Comprehensive Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995. [Currently out of print].

Williams, Michael, E. *Witnesses to the Baptist Heritage: Thirty Baptists Every Christian Should Know*. Macon, GA: Mercer Press, 2015.

Requirements

- A. Tests:** There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest test grade will be dropped. The exam will last 20 minutes and be timed. Exams should be taken without notes in front of you. Please study for the test, then take it “open memory.” You are on the honor system.

Tests will be available throughout the course and can be taken early, but must be completed **before 11.59 pm (Central Time)** on the date below. All test dates are **Mondays**.

Unit 1 - February 8

Unit 2 - February 22

Unit 3 - March 7

Unit 4 - March 28

Unit 5 - April 11

Unit 6 - May 9

- B. Assigned Reading:** Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each day. The percentage of each unit’s assigned reading that was completed will be reported (in 20% increments) on that unit’s test. Each report will be worth 5 points. An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded at the time of the final exam to students who have completed all the assigned reading for the course by the time of the final.
- C. Interactive Discussions:** Each student will participate in four (4) threaded discussions. During the time the unit containing the interactive discussion required, you will contribute to the discussion at least three times: once near the beginning of the unit and twice toward the end as you respond to your classmates’ comments (see above for unit completion dates). Your initial comments express your opinion on the topic. You must then respond to **at least** two (2) people, but **not more** than five (5) in any one discussion. This means that for each discussion you will have a minimum of 3 entries and a maximum of 6 entries. This means that for each discussion you will have a minimum of three entries in order to receive full credit

You must respond to the initial question **no later than three days before the end of the unit**, preferably. In this way, you will respond early enough to allow your classmates to learn from you. There must be **at least two (2) days** time span between your initial comments and your response to your classmates. Be sure to plan accordingly so that you leave enough time to respond before the end of the unit. Failure to do so will affect your grade.

You will be graded on your contributions to the discussion **and** on your interaction with what other students have said. It is **EXTREMELY** important that students remember to use courtesy when critiquing the ideas of their fellow students. Speak truth, but only in love and let your conversations be characterized by grace. The first interactive discussion will not be graded. This will allow you to become familiar with the program. The others are worth **15 points each**. The graded discussions will be on the following topics:

Unit 1 (not graded): Please describe yourself. Please include your educational background (where you went to school, major), current degree plan, desire for future ministry, and information about your family (married/children/unique experience growing up, etc.). Include only information that you feel comfortable sharing with the class.

Unit 2 (graded): Baptists were primed for growth when the Act of Toleration was passed. Instead, they lost ground, even as the Great Awakening was happening around them. From the list of factors contributing to the decline, give the two (2) factors you believe were the most crucial and explain why.

Unit 3: No Discussion. Take the time to work on your confession of faith.

Unit 4 (graded): There is a desire among some Baptists to drop the requirement of baptism by emersion for church membership. What do you think?

Unit 5: No Discussion. Take the time to work on your research paper.

Unit 6 (graded): The recommendations from the Great Commission Task Force were approved at the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention. Supporters believe this will streamline bureaucracies and spur church planting. Critics are concerned that allowing designated giving to bypass state conventions could begin to dismantle the Cooperative Program and that state conventions in newer areas will be decimated as their funding is reduced. What do you think?

D. Confession of Faith: Each student will write their own personal Confession of Faith. Include Scripture references as support for your views. While you may choose to model your confession after one of the existing confessions, it is not necessary to do so. If you make extensive use of one or more existing confessions, or you are not a Baptist, please note this in an introductory paragraph. However, this is your personal confession. Do not simply copy entire sections of a confession. Put it into your own words. Include the elements which you believe are necessary to be a Christian and to practice as a Baptist (or your denominational background if not Baptist). Use headings to indicate major necessary topics. Doctrines that must be covered are:

- God
- Bible
- Humanity
- Salvation
- Church
 - Definition – who makes up the church
 - Who has authority over the congregation (make budget, call pastor)

- Who are the leaders (pastor, deacon, elder, bishop, priest, pope)
- How many ordinances, what are they
- Last things

You may include additional topics as you see fit.

Your confession **must** have a title page and a table of contents. There are no page limits and it may be single spaced. The Confession is worth 50 points. A late confession will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Submit it in the “Assignments” area of Blackboard. **Due February 29.**

E. Research Paper: Choose one of the following options for your research paper. Post the subject of your paper in the “Research Paper Topic” area in Blackboard. The link will not be active until the first day of class. Duplication of topics will not be allowed and topics will be available on a first come/first served basis. Research paper assignments will be posted in Course Information by **February 15.**

Papers **require** a title page, a table of contents, a bibliography, and footnotes or endnotes (parenthetical citations are not acceptable). It must be double spaced and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not use** chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead. The appendix should come before the bibliography and be single spaced. The text of your paper (not counting table of contents, appendix, or bibliography) should be 8-12 pages in length (no more, no less). Use 5 - 10 sources with a minimum of three (3) books (do not use only Internet sources).

Students will post their paper in two places. First, submit your paper through SafeAssign, located in the “Assignments” area. This is the paper that will be graded. Second, post a copy of your paper in the “Discussion Board” area on Blackboard as a .pdf document. This will allow the rest of the class to read your paper in its original format. Failure to post your paper on Blackboard in the correct format will result in a **5 point penalty**. A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due (excluding Sunday) an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Projects will be graded on clear organization, spelling, and grammar as well as content. For examples of Turabian form, see the Turabian Tutor on Blackboard. The paper is worth 100 points. **Due April 18.**

Some resources for these projects include:

Albert Wardin, *Baptists Around the World* – **extremely helpful**

Bill Leonard, ed., *Dictionary of Baptists in America*

Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, www.sbhla.org

Baptist World Alliance, www.bwanet.org (About Us, then Statistics)

“Open Directory of Baptists”

http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Christianity/Denominations/Baptist/

“Association of Religion Data Archives - Maps”

<http://www.thearda.com/MapsReports/maps/USMaps.asp>

Daniel G. Reid, ed., *Dictionary of Christianity in America*

Frank Mead, *Handbook of Denominations*

Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches

Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, *Operation World*

East-West Christian Organizations

John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, eds., *Mission Handbook: U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas, 1998-2000*

“Your Guide to International Missions,” International Mission Board

J. Gordon Melton, *Encyclopedia of American Religions*

J. Gordon Melton, *American Religious Creeds*

Option 1 A professor at a community college in the area where you are serving has asked you to explain if Southern Baptists are any different from other Baptist groups in the United States. Compare your assigned group and its stated beliefs and denominational structure with that of the Southern Baptist Convention. Note the similarities and differences in outlook, teachings, and methods of organization. Compare the “Baptist Faith and Message” with the official Doctrinal Statement or Confession of Faith of the group. Explain what a church needs to do to be considered a cooperating church within that fellowship and how churches are represented at the various denominational levels (voting/financial representation with association, state, nation). Describe who comprises denominational leadership (president and/or executive council) and how it is chosen. Indicate each group’s willingness to participate with interdenominational agencies such as the Baptist World Alliance or World Council of Churches. You may also want to write your group’s denominational headquarters and ask for copies of their Constitution, By-Laws, and Confession of Faith.

Finally, as an appendix, include a two-page, single-spaced fact sheet on your denomination. It should include information on your denomination’s headquarters (address, phone, web site, etc.), number of members, number of congregations, average worship attendance, seminaries (overseen or endorsed), regional strength (South, West – see www.thearda.com) and entities (e.g. LifeWay). You may also include anything else you find of interest about your group (what is unique or distinctive about this group). Your fact sheet should be no longer than two (2) pages and does not count toward the page limit of your paper.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

History	20 points
Summary of Doctrine	20 points
Denominational structure/organization	20 points
Comparison with SBC	20 points
Fact sheet (Appendix)	10 points
Form/Grammar	10 points

American Baptist Association	Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, International
American Baptist Churches, USA	General Association of General Baptists
Baptist Bible Fellowship International	General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
Baptist Missionary Association of America	National Association of Free Will Baptists
Canadian Baptist Ministries [Federation]	National Baptist Convention, USA
Canadian National Baptist Convention	North American Baptist Conference
Conservative Baptist Association of America	Primitive Baptists (various groups)
Converge Worldwide [Baptist General Conference]	Progressive National Baptist Convention
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches (Canada)	World Baptist Fellowship

Option 2 You have been asked to give a report to the Baptist World Alliance on Baptist missions and development in a select area of the world. In your report you will:

1. Give a brief history of when Baptist activity (by all Baptist denominations) began in your area and its subsequent development

2. Identify the Baptist denominations currently doing mission work in your area, the number of missionaries they send and type of work they do (hospital, church planting, education). Please note if information is not available on your country because of security reasons.
3. Note if your country also sends missionaries to other countries, listing the countries and the size of the missionary force.
4. Offer an explanation for the number of different Baptist denominations in your country. Example: Why are there 14 Baptist denominations in Japan? – see Wardin. (e.g. historical development, cultural differences, or theological controversy).
5. Include an appendix. Include statistics on population, percentage that is Christian, number of the Baptist denominations in your country (number of congregations/membership—creative access countries excluded). Describe the unique challenges to evangelism and Baptist development in your country. Your fact sheet should be single-spaced, no longer than two (2) pages and does not count toward the page limit of your paper. Your grade will be determined as follows:

History of Baptist work in your country	30 points
Identify Baptist groups sending missionaries to your country	20 points
Identify places where your country sends missionaries	15 points
Explain why there are more than one Baptist group	15 points
Appendix	10 points
Form/Grammar	10 points

Argentina	Denmark	Myanmar (Burma)
Australia	Germany	Nigeria
Brazil	India	Philippines
Cameroon	Jamaica	Russia
China	Japan	Scotland
Cuba	Korea	South Africa
Democratic Republic of	Liberia	Sweden
Congo (Zaire)	Mexico	Ukraine

F. Extra Credit: The Greer-Heard Forum is February 12-13 on the NOBTS campus. It is free to students who register early. The topic will be “How Did Jesus Become God?” Students attending the event, watching the live stream, or reviewing the .mp3 files can earn up to 5 extra credit points by submitting a summary of the major speakers’ contents. **Due March 14.**

Penalties

- A. *Tests:* Since tests are available for some time before the deadline and one test score will be dropped, no make up exams are allowed.
- B. *Papers:* A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Failure to post a copy of the paper on Blackboard will result in the **loss of 5 points**.
- C. *Plagiarism:* A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction

may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action. **See the Graduate Catalog for more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of Plagiarism.**

Possible Points & Grading Scale

<u>Possible Points</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 325-350 pts.
Tests (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 297-324 pts.
Discussions:	45 pts.	C = 270-296 pts.
Confession:	50 pts	D = 245-269 pts.
Research Paper:	<u>100 pts.</u> 350 pts.	F = 244 - ↓ pts.

Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

Reading Schedule

[L] Leonard, Bill. *Baptist Ways: A History*.

[W] Wardin, Albert W. *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the U.S.A.*

[B & W] Bount, Douglas K. and Joseph D. Wooddell, eds. *Baptist Faith and Message 2000: Critical Issues in America's Largest Protestant Denomination*.

Unit	Subject	Reading
[1]	Baptist Distinctives and Polity	L: 1-17 B & W: 1-36
	English Reform and Baptist Origins	L: 18-25
	Rise of General and Particular Baptists	L: 25-43
	Confessions of Faith and Associations	L: 44-51, 63-69
[2]	Challenges and Early Leaders	L: 52-63, 90-93
	English Baptists (1689-1770)	L: 93-96, 98-100 B & W: vii-xxv, 37-54, 111-120
	New Connection & BMS	L: 96-98, 100-111
	From Spurgeon to the Present	L: 139-157, 366-389
[3]	Baptist Beginnings in America	L: 70-89, 112-117
	First Great Awakening	L: 118-120 B & W: 55-88, 171-182
	American Expansion	L: 120-128
	Struggle for Religious Liberty	L: 129-138
[4]	American Baptist Missions	L: 158-180 B & W: 89-110
	Anti-Missions Reaction	L: 180-185 W: 87-98
	Formation of SBC	L: 185-196

	African-American Baptists	L: 263-285 W: 21-28
	Ethnic Missions	L: 207-209, 306-336 W: 29-30, 34-40
[5]	Northern Baptists 1845-1920	L: 197-202, 209-214 W: 78-86 B & W: 121-150
	Southern Baptists 1845-1900	L: 203-207, 214-226
	Landmarkism	L: 227-262 W: 73-77
	Fundamentalism	L: 390-411 W: 31-34, 41-51, 66-72
[6]	Southern Baptists 1900-1960	L: 86-305 B & W: 151-170
	American Baptists Since 1950 & Reformed Baptists	L: 337-365 W: 16-20, 99-101
	SBC Expansion	L: 411-413 W: 52-59
	SBC Controversies	L: 414-425 W: 59-65
	SBC Reorganization, BF & M	B & W: 183-229

Bibliography Baptist History

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- Backus Isaac. *A History of New England with Particular Reference to the Denomination of Christians called Baptists*, 2 vols. Edited with notes by D. Weston. Newton, Mass.: Backus Historical Society, 1871. Original editions, vol.1, 1777; vol.2, 1784; vol.3, 1796.
- _____. *Isaac Backus on Church, State and Calvinism: Pamphlets 1754-1789*. Edited by W.G. McLoughlin. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1968.
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