

HIST 6305 - RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND THE LAW

Spring 2020

Thursday, 2-3.50 pm
Campus, NOLA2U Live



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is *spiritual vitality*. We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of how Religious Liberty has been understood in America, especially by the Supreme Court

Disciple Making – training to model Christ-like behavior when engaging the legal arena

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

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

Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation for Religious Liberty

Course Description

This course will study how courts in the United States have interpreted the First Amendment's guarantee of Religious Liberty, with an emphasis on Supreme Court cases. Legal briefs, judicial decisions and commentary on court rulings will be explored. Attention will be given to the tension between the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Ethical implications of these decisions will be explored.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the formation and development of the U. S. Supreme Courts holdings regarding Religious Liberty to current legal challenges.
2. Value the heritage and importance of Religious Liberty for both Church and State.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to accomplish the following:
 - Practice the historical method and historiography in order to interpret Christian theological heritage for the local church.
 - Place court cases and concepts within their proper historical context.

Required Text

Goodrich, Luke. *Free to Believe: The Battle Over Religious Liberty in America*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2019. ISBN: 978-0525652908

Recommended Text

Munoz, Phillip Vincent. *Religious Liberty and the American Supreme Court: The Essential Cases and Documents*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013. ISBN: 978-1442208278

Course Requirements

A. Text Review: Each student will write a review of the Goodrich text. The review will be written as though for an academic magazine or journal. It should contain:

- (1) a title page, but a table of contents is not necessary,
- (2) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
- (3) a brief biographical sketch of the author (one paragraph at most),
- (4) a brief summary (one to two pages) of the contents of the book,
- (5) a statement of the authors' purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized,
- (6) a description of the authors' writing style and biases,
- (7) significant insights, strengths, and/or weaknesses (at least 2 each),
- (8) concluding evaluation.

See the example in Blackboard. All quotations and direct references to sections in the book should be indicated by page numbers within parentheses. Citations or paraphrases from other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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