

THCM 2375-01 Southern Baptist Life

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Leavell College

Dr. Joseph J. Finn, Prof.

Spring 2014

Thurs. 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Email: Swordfinn@aol.com

Ofc: (305)888-9777

Cell: (305)450-5856

Fax: 786-242-5887

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to enhance the competency of the Christian/Theological Heritage. This course is designed to provide an overview of the history, structure and activities of the Southern Baptist Convention. Included in the course will be a look at the current state of the Convention, as well as the future prospects of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Student Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

1. Be able to discuss the basic history of Baptists;
2. Be able to discuss the basic history of the Southern Baptist Convention.
3. Be able to discuss the current state of the Convention;
4. Be able to identify and define Baptist beliefs;
5. Be able to define Baptist Identity; and
6. Have a greater appreciation for Baptist studies.

Textbook

H. Leon McBeth, *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.

Course Methodology

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, audio-visual presentations, handouts and visual aids (videos.)

Course Requirements

1. School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than one-fourth of the classroom hours (9 hours) will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each period. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken.

2. Two examinations will be given during the semester: a Mid-Term and a Final Exam. These tests will cover both materials discussed in class and material taken from the readings. These tests will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, and multiple answer questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions.) Each exam will only cover material from that particular section, including the Final Exam. Any student who misses an exam is expected to schedule a make-up exam within one week of the missed exam. All make-up exams are assessed a 5 point penalty and are essay in form. Any exam not made up within two weeks of the original exam date will be given the grade of zero. Each of these exams will count for 25% of the semester average.
3. Each student will write a 5-6 page, double-spaced (Times Roman 12 point font) paper (produced on a computer) discussing his/her understanding of Baptist Identity. The paper will provide a discussion of those beliefs which the student believes are the most important for Baptists. The paper will contain at least one full page of text which provides reasons and defenses for why the writer is a Baptist (non-Baptist students can consult the Professor as to their instructions.) This paper will be graded for both its content and its form, which is to follow the guidelines outlined in the most recent edition of Turabian. **The paper is due in class on April 10, 2014.** The grade will be counted off 5 points for every day that the paper is late. The grade will compose 20% of the Final semester grade.
4. Each student will write a 5-8 page (produced on a computer) biographical report on a specific historical figure (which will be assigned by the professor.) This report ought to provide biographical information about the individual, as well as discuss his/her historical significance. Each student is expected to use at least 5 different sources, with at least one source being an electronic document. If possible, students should make use of the writings of the specific historical figure. A bibliography will be included in the report to be turned in to the professor, but it is not necessary for the reports to be distributed to the class. Each student will produce enough copies of their report to distribute a copy to everyone in the class (13). Each student will then present a 3 minute oral report which will discuss the historical figure written about in their report. The student should discuss the significance of the individual and be prepared to answer any questions about the individual that the class may have. **The reports will be given on April 24, 2014.** The report will be graded on both content and delivery. Any student who is absent will receive a grade of zero for the assignment

and will be unable to make-up the grade. The report will compose 25% of the Final semester grade. All students are responsible for being in the classroom on time, reading the assigned materials and participating in the class discussions. Therefore, each student will receive a class participation grade. This grade will be based upon three criteria: class attendance and tardiness; contribution to class discussions; and reading quiz grades. This grade will compose 5% of the final class grade.

5. The Final Grade For The Course Will Consist Of The Following:

• Mid-Term Exam	25%
• Final Exam	25%
• Biographical Report	25%
• Participation	5%
• Paper (Baptist Identity)	20%
	Total:100%

Course Schedule--Reading and Assignments

Week 1: Jan. 23

Introduction

"Why Are You A Baptist?"

Week 2: Jan. 30

History and characteristics of Anabaptists McBeth 49-63

Overview of the English Reformation " 22-32; 99-122

Birth of the General Baptists

Week 3: Feb. 6

Birth of the General Baptists McBeth 32-39

Birth of the Particular Baptists " 39-49

The Decline and Union of English Baptists

Week 4: Feb. 13

Baptist Beginnings in America McBeth 123-152

Baptist Beginnings in America

The First Great Awakening McBeth 200-251

Week 5: Feb. 20

The Modern Missions Movement McBeth 181-187
Birth of American Missions " 343-380

Week 6: Feb. 27

The Formation of the SBC McBeth 381-391
The Struggle with Landmarkism " 447-461

Week 7 March 6

The Struggle with Fundamentalists McBeth 302-306
The Formation of the Cooperative Program " 609-652

Week 8: March 13

SBC Structure/Polity Video

Week 9: March 20

Mid-Term Exam
The Genesis Controversy McBeth 623-701
Events leading to the current Controversy

Week 10: March 27- Spring Break

The Current Controversy in the SBC
The Current Controversy in the SBC

Week 11: April 3 – Paper Due 4/7

The Current Controversy in the SBC
The Current Controversy in the SBC

Week 12: April 10

The Current Controversy in the SBC Paper Due
The Controversy and the Texas Convention Baptist Identify

Week 13: 4/20-4/22 April 17

The Baptist Faith and Message McBeth 64-98
The Baptist Faith and Message

Week 14: April 24

The Baptist Faith and Message
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Biographical Report Due

THCM-2375-01 Southern Baptist Life
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Leavell College
Dr. Joseph J. Finn, Spring, 2014 Pg. 5

Week 15 May 1
The Baptist Faith and Message
The Future Prospects of the SBC

Week 16 May 8 Final Exam

Bibliography

Cothen, Grady. *The New SBC: Fundamentalism's Impact on the Southern Baptist Convention*. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 1995.

_____. *What Happened to the Southern Baptist Convention? A Memoir of the Controversy*. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 1993.

Fletcher, Jesse. *The Southern Baptist Convention: A Sesquicentennial History*. Nashville: Broadman, 1995.

Hankins, Barry. *Uneasy in Babylon: Southern Baptist Conservatives and American Culture*. Tuscaloosa: Univ. of Alabama Press, 2002.

Hefley, James. *The Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Truth in Crisis*. Richmond: Hannibal Books, 1990.

Lumpkin, William L., ed. *Baptist Confession of Faith*, rev. ed. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1969.
McBeth, H. Leon. *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.

_____. *A Source Book for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman, 1990.

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

Shurden, Walter and Randy Shepley, eds. *Going for the Jugular: A Documentary History of the SBC Holy War*. Macon: Mercer Univ. Press, 1996.

Shurden, Walter. *Not a Silent People: Controversies that have Shaped Southern Baptists*. Nashville: Broadman, 1972.

Sutton, Jerry, *The Baptist Reformation*. Nashville: Broadman, 2000.

For additional bibliographic sources, please see the professor.