

**THCM 2375-01 Southern Baptist Life**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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**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.

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Comprehend Baptist beliefs and Baptist identify
2. Value a Southern Baptist Life and Ministry
3. Be able to apply the characteristics of Southern Baptist Life to a local church ministry.

**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, group activities, Power Point presentations, and audio-visual Presentations.

**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 – 6 class sessions) will automatically receive a grade of “F” for the course. 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 through the course of the semester – a Mid-term and a Final Exam. These tests will cover both materials covered in class and in the readings. These tests will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, 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.
3. Each student will write a 5 page, double spaced (Times Roman 12 point font) paper (produced on a computer) discussing what Baptists Believe. The paper is due February 14. The paper will provide a discussion of those beliefs which the student believes are the most important for Baptists.
4. Each student is expected to read all of the assigned materials on the assigned dates.
5. Each student will interview 5 people involved with Southern Baptist work and see what they think of the work of the SBC, the importance of the convention, etc. Interviewees must include one current pastor of SBC church, three denominational leaders, and one SBC church member.

6. Each student will have a class report on one of the following topics:
  1. Discuss the basic history of Baptists;
  2. Discuss the basic history of the Southern Baptist Convention;
  3. Discuss the current state of the convention;
  4. Identify and define Baptist beliefs;
  5. Define Baptist Identity;
  6. Discuss your appreciation for Baptist studies.

First come, first choice, please send me your first three choices.

5. The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Reading Quizzes	25%
<u>Papers</u>	<u>25%</u>
	100%

	<u>Course Schedule</u>	<u>Syllabus (Teaching Plan)</u>
<u>Week 1</u>	January 17, 2011  Introductions Overview of the Southern Baptist Convention  <u>Unit I</u> Baptist Beginnings, Defining the Faith, Defending the Faith, Beginnings in America	1:00 – 5:00 pm      McBeth (p. 1-150)
<u>Week 2</u>	January 31, 2011  <u>Exam</u> on Class Discussion from Week 1 and Unit 1 from McBeth (p. 1-150)  <u>Unit II</u> General Baptists, Particular Baptists, William Carey, Great Awakening, Baptist Associations	1:00 – 5:00 pm      McBeth (p. 150-283)
<u>Week 3</u>	February 14, 2011  <u>Paper Due</u> (5 pages on What Southern Baptists Believe) Open Discussion on Baptist Beliefs  <u>Unit III</u> Baptists in England, Landmarkism, Early SBC	1:00-5:00 pm      McBeth (p. 285-607)
<u>Week 4</u>	February 28, 2011  The Southern Baptist Convention McBeth (p. 609-822) Associations, State Conventions, National Entities, Executive Committee, Annual Meetings  <u>Final Exam</u>	1:00-5:00 pm

## Selected Bibliography

- Cothen, Grady. *The New SBC: Fundamentalism's Impact on the Southern Baptist Convention*. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 1995.
- 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.
- McBeth, H. Leon. *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. *Not a Silent People: Controversies that have Shaped Southern Baptists*. Nashville: Broadman, 1972.
- Sutton, Jerry. *The Baptist Reformation*. Nashville: Broadman, 2000.

## **Specific Learning Objectives**

1. Describe the historical contributions/significance of Huldreich Zwingli.
2. Identify and/or discuss the characteristics of Anabaptists.
3. Describe the historical contributions/significance of Andrew Fuller.
4. Describe the historical contributions/significance of George Whitefield.
5. Describe the historical contributions/significance of William Carey.
6. Describe the historical contributions/significance of Adoniram Judson.
7. Describe the historical contributions/significance of Luther Rice.
8. Identify and/or discuss the formation and characteristics of the Triennial Convention.
- \* 9. Identify and/or discuss the formation and characteristics of the Southern Baptist Convention.
10. Identify and/or discuss the teachings of Landmarkism.
- \* 11. Identify and/or discuss the formation and characteristics of the Cooperative Program.
12. Identify the make-up, purpose, and function of the SBC Annual Meeting.
13. Identify the function and duties of the SBC President.
- \* 14. Identify the make-up, purpose, and function of the Executive Committee.
15. Identify the make-up, purpose, and function of the various SBC trustee boards.
16. Define the following terms: Conservative, Liberal, Fundamentalist, Moderate, and Neo-Orthodox.
17. Identify the two purposes of the Baptist Faith and Message.
18. Identify key issues which will shape the future of the SBC.