

THCM 2375-01 Southern Baptist Life

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Leavell College

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Fall 2012

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the history, structure, activities, and funding of the Southern Baptist Convention. Included in the course will be a discussion of the current state of the convention, as well as the future prospects of the Southern Baptist Convention. Special emphasis will be placed upon the history and operation of the Cooperative Program funding system.

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 identity
2. Value a Southern Baptist Life and Ministry
3. Be able to apply the characteristics of Southern Baptist Life to 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, audio-visual presentations and web interaction.

Course Requirements

1). Exams (40%)

A mid-term exam (20%) and a final exam (20%) will be given. See class and reading schedule for dates. Exams will cover material from Textbook, class notes and class projects.

2) Book Review and Presentation (25%)

Each student will be responsible for selecting one additional book to read, review, write a paper and give a presentation about the book. Students must choose a book that relates to issues dealing with either the history, structure or activities of the Southern Baptist Convention. The book report must be five pages typed and double-space and should include the following: (a) Title and author (b) Summary of the book (c) Key ideas or principles taught in the book (d) Strengths and weaknesses of book (e) Reasons you would recommend or not recommend the book. A ten minute presentation about the topic the book deals with will be presented in class.

3) Web Interaction (10%)

The student will participate in web discussions conducted by the Professor dealing with topics related to Southern Baptist Life.

4) **Reading Materials (10%)**

Each student is expected to read all of the assigned materials by the assigned dates given by the Professor.

5) **Current Events in Southern Baptist Life (15%)**

Each student will bring in an article dealing with Southern Baptist life and share with the class the major concepts of the article. The article can be from a current news publication, blogs, Twitter discussions, YouTube or any other media outlets.

Additional Information

Participation

Since much of what takes place in class will depend on discussion and participation of class members, it is imperative materials be read prior to the date it is covered in class. Oral and/or written quizzes may be given if deemed necessary by the instructor.

Attendance

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. Attendance will be kept according to seminary guidelines. A grade of **"F"** will be assigned to students who fail to attend class the minimum number of hours. If the student misses class, **it is his/her responsibility for obtaining class notes, handouts, etc., from one's colleagues.**

Due Dates

All assignments are to be turned in at the **BEGINNING** of the class period in which they are due. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a four point penalty for each class period the assignment is late.

Plagiarism

Since NOBTS exists to provide training for the Christian Ministry, a high standard of personal integrity is expected by all students. Copying another person's work, failing to cite sources in submitted papers, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty is strictly forbidden. **ANY INFRACTION WILL RESULT IN FAILING THE COURSE.**

Course Schedule

First Class Period

- 1) Introduction and Overview of Course
- 2) Requirements Assigned
- 3) Lecture and Materials presented on Southern Baptist Life
- 4) Reading Assignments
- 5) Participate in Web discussions between classes

Second Class Period

- 1) Current Event #1 due
- 2) Lecture and Material presented on Southern Baptist Life
- 3) Reading Assignments
- 4) Participate in Web discussions between classes

Third Class Period

- 1) Mid Term
- 2) Current Event #2 due
- 3) Lecture and Material presented on Southern Baptist Life
- 4) Reading Assignments
- 5) Participate in Web discussions between classes

Fourth Class Period

- 1) Final Exam
- 2) Current Event #3 due
- 3) Book Reports due
- 4) Book Presentations
- 5) Lecture and Material presented on Southern Baptist Life

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.