

Baptist and Christian Doctrine

Supervised Reading Colloquium THSR9304

Dr. Steve Lemke

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Spring 2010

Seminary Mission Statement

Our mission is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value and Key Competency

The primary core value of the Seminary addressed in this course is Doctrinal Integrity. The primary key competency in ministry addressed is Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

This colloquium is designed for and led by resident Doctor of Philosophy and Masters of Theology students under the supervision of the faculty of Theological and Historical Division, with focused readings on Baptist and Christian Theology.

Faculty

Dr. Steve Lemke

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Texts for Readings

- Balthasar Hubmaier, "Statements at the Second Zurich Disputation," "Eighteen Theses Concerning the Christian Life," "On Heretics and Those Who Burn Them," "On the Christian Baptism of Believers," "Dialogue with Zwingli's Baptism Book," "On the Christian Ban," "Freedom of the Will I," "Freedom of the Will II," and "On the Sword," in *Balthasar Hubmaier: Theologian of Anabaptism*, trans. and ed. H. Wayne Pipkin and John H. Yoder (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1989).
- Thomas Grantham, *Christianismus Primitivus*, (1678; a new Mercer critical edition is forthcoming); available online at <http://baptistlibraryonline.com>.
- Menno Simons, *A Foundation and Plain Instruction of the Saving Doctrine of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, trans. I. Daniel Rupp (Lancaster: Elias Barr, 1863), or "Foundation of Christian Doctrine" and "Reply to Syllis and Lemke," in *The Complete Writings of Menno Simons*,

trans. Leonard Verduin (Scottsdale: Herald, 1956), available online at <http://www.mennosimons.net/fulltext.html>.

- John L. Dagg, *Manual of Theology: A Treatise on Christian Doctrine*, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1871), available online at <http://www.reformedreader.org/rbb/dagg/mottoc.htm> and at <http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/library/founders.html>.
- James P. Boyce, *Abstract of Systematic Theology* (Greenwood: Attic Press, 1887), available online at <http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/library/boyce1/toc.html>.
- E. Y. Mullins, *The Christian Religion in Its Doctrinal Expression* (Nashville: Sunday School Board, 1917).
- W. T. Conner, *Christian Doctrine* (Nashville: Broadman, 1937).
- James Leo Garrett, *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*, 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- A. H. Strong, *Systematic Theology*, 3 vols. (Philadelphia: Judson, 1907).
- James Leo Garrett, *Baptist Theology: A Four Century Study*. Macon: Mercer, 2009.
- Leon McBeth, *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage* (Nashville: Broadman, 1990).

Confessions

Consult at least the following confessions and doctrinal statements: (see baptistcenter.com and reformedreader.com)

- The Apostle's Creed (390)
- Chalcedonian Creed (451)
- Sattler's Schleithem Confession (1527)
- A True Confession (1596)
- Confession of Faith in XX Articles (1609)
- Smyth's Short Confession of Faith (1610)
- Helwys's Confession of Faith (1611)
- The Five Remonstrant Articles (1618)
- Synod of Dort (1618)
- Westminster Confession of Faith (1646)
- The Arminian Confession of 1651
- The Standard Confession (1660)
- Second London Confession (1688)
- Philadelphia Confession (1742)
- The Sandy Creek Confession (1758)
- New Hampshire Confession (1833)
- NOBTS Articles of Religious Belief (1918)
- Baptist Faith and Message (1925, 1963, 2000)

Assignments

The Readings - The primary assignment is to read all the assigned readings and take notes outlining the primary theological tenets of the theologian we are reading. Organize your notes according to doctrines. Summarize their view on each doctrine in about a paragraph. If there is a pithy quote that summarizes the author's view on a theological topic, just quote it. Then compare the doctrines advocated with the doctrinal confessions we are referencing (see list), noting similarities and differences. You need not take notes on the Garrett (*BT*) and McBeth readings; these are to provide you with some perspective in addressing the larger issues.

The Class Meetings - In class meetings, bring copies of your outlines for everyone in the colloquium. We will all discuss all the readings; no one will be assigned any particular reading in advance. Class members will lead in the discussion of different sections of the readings as we go through them.

The Chart - An attempt will be made to summarize succinctly in a comparative chart format the key beliefs of each theologian and confession studied, particularly with regard to the doctrines of God, Christology, Pneumatology, Trinity, creation, sin/anthropology, freewill/sovereignty, soteriology, ecclesiology, eschatology, and "other highlighted doctrines" (such as "the ban," for instance, with Anabaptists).

Class Schedule

When	Reading Assignment/Topic
2/12	Grantham, <i>Christianismus Primitivus</i>
	Simons, <i>A Foundation of Christian Doctrine</i> , and "Reply to Syllis and Lemke"
	Hubmaier, readings as assigned
	Garrett, 1-108; McBeth, 13-141
	Comparison with Confessions
3/12	Dagg, <i>Manual of Theology</i> , 2 vols.
	Boyce, <i>Abstract of Systematic Theology</i>
	Garrett, 109-341; McBeth, 142-346
	Comparison with Confessions
4/9	Strong, <i>Systematic Theology</i> (3 vols.)
	Mullins, <i>The Christian Religion in Its Doctrinal Expression</i>
	Garrett, 342-449; McBeth, 347-496
	Comparison with Confessions
4/30	Conner, <i>Christian Doctrine</i>
	Garrett, <i>Systematic Theology</i> (2 vols.)
	Garrett, 449-726; McBeth, 497-627
	Comparison with Confessions

Each student is encouraged to participate in the Seminary reading plan listed at http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/Publications/NOBTS_SVbiblereading.pdf