



HISR9304/THSR9304 Supervised Reading Colloquium: Baptist History & Theology

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spring 2018

Wednesdays 8:30-10:20 am, 2/7, 2/28, 4/11, 5/9
HSC 279

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Description

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

Core Value & Key Competency 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 **servant leadership**. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The primary key competency in ministry addressed in this course is **Christian Theological Heritage**.

Course Policies

Attendance: Per the *NOBTS Graduate Catalog 2015–2016*, “PhD students are expected to attend all class sessions. . . . To drop a course, students must contact the Office of Research Doctoral Programs” (156).

Attire: Students should wear professional or business-casual attire (guidance for men: either a tie or a blazer or both; jeans are permitted with a blazer).

Grading: The performance of each student in this colloquium will be assessed by the professor as either pass or fail, based on the student completing all assigned work at a grade level of “B” or higher. Late work will not be accepted.

Style Guides: Current editions of Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, and *The SBL Handbook of Style*.

Course Requirements, Required Texts, and Schedule:

- **Book Summaries.** Students will read and summarize a selection of books listed below and submit a printed copy of each summary to the professor on the respective due date. The summary should be approximately 2-3 single-spaced page in length (with no paragraph breaks). No title page is required; please provide the name of the student and assignment as well as the date at the top of each submission. Each summary should include:
 - **Bibliographic entry**
 - **Biography** (a few sentences on dates, degrees, theological tradition, academic posts held, research interests, and significant works).
 - **Summary** of the author’s views on major doctrines/topics. Summaries may include a minimal number of quotations which succinctly clarify the author’s views. Define key terms. Cite page numbers parenthetically.
- **Book Discussions.** Each student will choose three books on which to lead a 20–25 minute discussion on each book (including one book marked **). Students should consult [this resource](#) when preparing discussion questions.

Note: Some of these volumes are out of print. Consider purchasing used copies or borrowing those books. Also, some volumes are available digitally.

- **Confessions.** To prepare for Meeting #2, students will locate and read the confessions selected from the list below. Each student will create and submit to the class copies of a document which attempts to summarize succinctly in a comparative chart format the key beliefs of each confession studied, particularly with regarding to the doctrines of the Bible, God the Father, the person of Christ, the Holy Spirit, Trinity, creation, humanity, sin, election/predestination, atonement, salvation, the church, last things, and any other highlighted doctrines (such as “the ban” among Anabaptists).

Meeting #1 on Feb. 7, 8:30-10:20 AM (*History*)

Each student shall sign up for one session under each section.

- Crosby, Thomas. *The History of English Baptists*. Vols. 1-2, London: 1738–40.
- Crosby, Thomas. *The History of English Baptists*. Vols. 3-4, London: 1738–40.
- Ivimey, Joseph. *A History of English Baptists*. Vols. 1–2. London: 1811–14.
- Ivimey, Joseph. *A History of English Baptists*. Vols. 3–4. London: 1823–30.
- Benedict, David. *A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America, and Other Parts of the World*. Vols 1-2. Boston: Lincoln & Edmands, 1813.
- White, B. R. *Association Records of the Particular Baptists of England, Wales and Ireland to 1660*. London: Baptist Historical Society, 1971–74. Underhill, Edward B. *The Records of a Church of Christ, Meeting in Broadmead, Bristol: 1640-1687*. [Two books for one student]

Meeting #2 on February 28, 8:30-10:20 AM (*Confessions*)

Choose one of the pairings of confessions. Each grouping is related. Compare and contrast the confessions you choose. Your comparison will be 2-3 single-spaced pages and follow the guidelines listed above in the syllabus.

- Waterlander Confession of Faith (Hans de Ries, 1618), Short Confession (John Smyth, 1610), and A Declaration of Faith of English People (Thomas Helwys, 1611)
- True Confession (1596) and First London Confession (1644)
- Westminster Confession (1646/7), Savoy Confession (1658), and Second London Confession (1677)
- Standard Confession (1660) and Orthodox Creed (1678)
- Philadelphia Confession (1742), Charleston Confession (1751), and Abstract of Principles (Southern Seminary, 1858)
- New Hampshire Confession (1833), Baptist Faith and Message (1925, 1963, 2000), and Articles of Religious Belief (NOBTS, 1918)

Meeting #3 on April 11, 8:30-10:20 AM (*Historical & Systematic Theology*)

- Garrett, James Leo Jr. *Baptist Theology: A Four-Century Study*. Mercer, 2009.
- Dever, Mark and Jonathan Leeman, eds. *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2015; McClendon, James. *Doctrine: Systematic Theology, Volume 2*. Baylor: BUP, 2012.
- Dagg, John L. *Manual of Theology*. Print or digital; Mullins, E. Y. *The Axioms of Religion*, ed. D. Weaver. Macon, GA: MUP, 2010.

Meeting #4 on May 9, 8:30-10:20 AM (*Systematic Theology*)

- Moody, Dale. *The Word of Truth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981; Grenz, Stan. *Theology for the Community of God*. Either publisher, print or digital.
- Garrett, James Leo Jr. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. 1. Any edition; either print or digital.
- Garrett, James Leo Jr. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. 2. Any edition; either print or digital.

Discussion Rubric

	A	B	C	D	E
Quality of Comments	Timely and appropriate comments, thoughtful and reflective, responds respectfully to other student's remarks, provokes questions and comments from the group	Volunteers comments, most are appropriate and reflect some thoughtfulness, leads to other questions or remarks from student and/or others	Volunteers comments but lacks depth, may or may not lead to other questions from students	Struggles but participates, occasionally offers a comment when directly questioned, may simply restate questions or points previously raised, may add nothing new to the discussion or provoke no responses or question	Does not participate and/or only makes negative or disruptive remarks, comments are inappropriate or off topic
Referencing Resources	Clear reference to text being discussed and connects to it to other text or reference points from previous readings and discussions	Has done the reading with some thoroughness, may lack some detail or critical insight	Has done the reading, lacks thoroughness of understanding or insight	Has not read the entire text and cannot sustain any reference to it in the course of discussion	Unable to refer to text for evidence or support of remarks
Active Listening	Posture, demeanor and behavior clearly demonstrate respect and attentiveness to others	Listens to others most of the time, does not stay focused on other's comments (too busy formulating own) or loses continuity of discussion. Shows consistency in responding to the comments of others	Listens to others some of the time, does not stay focused on other's comments (too busy formulating own) or loses continuity of discussion. Shows some consistency in responding to the comments of others	Drifts in and out of discussion, listening to some remarks while clearly missing or ignoring others	Disrespectful of others when they are speaking, behavior indicates total non-involvement with group or discussion