



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

BAPTIST STUDIES - HIST/THEO 9409
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Spring 2021 (W 8-12; 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24,
4/7, 4/21, 4/28)

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Participants will engage in selected studies of ecclesiology, theological perspectives, personalities, principles, problems, and movements that have influenced Baptist faith and practice significantly since the 17th century.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to understand and interpret Baptist polity and theological heritage, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the distinctive characteristics of Baptists from seventeenth-century origins to the present to the process of interpreting Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
2. Value the ideas, individuals, movements, and institutions that form Baptist heritage.
3. Be able, with the help of resources, to accomplish the following:
 - Practice the historical method and historiography in order to interpret Baptist heritage for the local church.
 - Articulate and defend evangelical and Baptist positions on specific theological issues.
 - Analyze and evaluate existing Baptist polity and ecclesiology in light of historical precedent.

Textbooks

Dever, Mark E. ed. *Polity: Biblical Arguments on How to Conduct Church Life*. Washington, D.C.: Center for Church Reform, 2001. Available online in pdf here: <https://www.9marks.org/Polity/>

Dever, Mark & Jonathan Leeman. ed. *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age* (Nashville: B&H, 2015)

Grenz, Stanley J. *The Baptist Congregation*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1985; reprint, Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 1998.

Norman, R. Stanton. *The Baptist Way: Distinctives of a Baptist Church*. Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 2005.

Renihan, James M. *Edification and Beauty: The Practical Ecclesiology of the English Particular Baptists, 1675-1705*. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2008

Shurden, Walter B. *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 1993.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve lectures, presentations, research and writing.

Course Requirements

- A. *Discussions*: Each student will participate in class discussions. It will be particularly important that students come prepared on the second class session to discuss the purposes and uses of Baptist confessions of faith.
- B. *Text Comparison*: Students will **read both the Norman and Shurden textbooks** and compose a brief comparison and contrast of them. Analyze and evaluate the perspectives that each book brings in understanding Baptist distinctives. The Synthesis should be 4-5 single-spaced typewritten pages in length.
- C. *Papers*: Each student will write three (3) research papers: a biography, a doctrinal/polity study, and a major research paper on a group/movement. The first two papers will provide foundational research for the final paper. The papers **must have** a title page, a table of contents, a bibliography, and footnotes or endnotes. The first two papers must be double spaced and follow Turabian, sixth edition, for style. However, **do not** use chapters to separate sections of your paper (chapters require a new page for each new chapter and the project is not long enough to justify this). Use section headings instead. The first two papers should be 10-15 pages in length. The final paper must be single spaced and have chapter divisions. It should be about 20 pages in length. **One digital copy** must be provided each member of the class and **one paper copy** for each professor.
- D. *Response*: Each student will write a critique and response to one of the final research papers.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Discussion Participation:	10%
Text Comparison	10%
Biography	20%
Doctrinal Paper:	20%
Research Paper:	30%
<u>Response:</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Penalties

- A. *Papers:* Late papers will be assessed an initial **10% penalty**, based upon the value of the late assignment. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10% penalty** will be assessed.
- B. *Plagiarism:* A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action. **See the Graduate Catalog for more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of Plagiarism.**

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Jan. 27	Orientation on Skype (8 am Central Time)
Feb. 10	Text Comparisons
Feb. 24	Biography Papers
Mar. 10	Biography Papers
Mar. 24	Doctrinal Papers
Apr. 7	Doctrinal Papers
Apr. 21	Research Papers
Apr. 28	Research Papers

Selected Bibliography

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- Brand, Chad and R. Stanton Norman. *Perspectives on Church Government*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2003.
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