

HIST5223 BAPTIST HERITAGE
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Seminary 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.

Purpose of the Course, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of theological and historical studies. The core value focus of the course this semester will emphasize characteristic excellence. The course will specifically address the competencies of Christian theological heritage, disciple making, servant leadership and spiritual and character formation.

Course Description

This course surveys Baptist history, polity, and theology from seventeenth-century origins to the present, with primary emphasis on developments in England and North America. Attention is given to Anabaptist and English Separatist antecedents, intellectual and social currents that have shaped Baptist life and thought, institutional developments, theological distinctives and crises, the shaping of Baptist polity and contributions of selected Baptist leaders.

Objectives

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, 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.
 - ÷ Place individuals, movements, and ideas in their proper context in Baptist history.

Required Texts

There are three (3) required books for this class. These books compliment one another as tools for understanding our Baptist heritage. All texts are available from the New Orleans LifeWay Christian Store: (800) 570-0250. An additional source is Christian Book Distributors (www.christianbook.com). The Wardin book can be ordered directly from Baptist History and Heritage Society (www.baptisthistory.org).

[L] Leonard, Bill. *Baptist Ways: A History*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2003.

[W] Wardin, Albert W., ed. *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the U.S.A.: A Historical and Statistical Analysis*. Atlanta: Baptist History and Heritage Society, 2007.

[B&W] Blount, Douglas K. & Joseph D. Wooddell. *Baptist Faith and Message 2000: Critical Issues in America's Largest Protestant Denomination*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Recommended Texts

Brand, Chad and R. Stanton Norman. *Perspectives on Church Government: Five Views of Church Polity*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2003.

Grenz, Stanley J. *The Baptist Congregation*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1985; reprint, Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2002.

Lumpkin, William L., ed. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2d rev. ed. 2011.

McBeth, H. Leon. *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman, 1990.

Norman, R. Stanton. *More Than Just a Name: Preserving Our Baptist Identity*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.

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

Sullivan, James L. *Baptist Polity--As I See It*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, rev. ed. 1998.

Wardin, Albert W., ed. *Baptists Around the World: A Comprehensive Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995. [Currently out of print].

Requirements

A. Tests: There will be six (6) tests, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest test grade will be dropped. The exam will last 20 minutes and be timed. Exams should be taken without notes in front of you. Please study for the test, then take it "open memory." You are on the honor system.

Tests will be available throughout the course and must be completed before 11.59 pm (Central Standard Time) on the date below. All test dates are **Mondays**.

B. Assigned Reading: Students are expected to read the assigned pages listed for each day. The percentage of each unit's assigned reading that was completed will be reported (in 20% increments) on that unit's test. Each report will be worth 5 points. An additional 5 point bonus will be awarded at the time of the final exam to students who have completed all the assigned reading for the course by the time of the final.

C. Interactive Discussions: Each student will participate in four (4) threaded discussions. During the time the unit containing the interactive discussion required, you will enter the discussion at least three times: once near the beginning of the unit and twice toward the end as you respond to your classmates' comments (see above for unit completion dates). Your initial comments express your opinion on the topic. You must then respond to **at least** two (2) people, but **not more** than five (5) in any one discussion. This means that for each discussion you will have a minimum of 3 entries and a maximum of 6 entries.

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

There must be **at least** three (3) days time span between your initial comments and your response to your classmates. Be sure to plan accordingly so that you leave enough time to respond before the end of the unit. Failure to do so will affect your grade.

You will be graded on your contributions to the discussion **and** on your interaction with what other students have said. It is **EXTREMELY** important that students remember to use courtesy when critiquing the ideas of their fellow students. Speak truth, but only in love and let your conversations be characterized by grace. The first interactive discussion will not be graded. This will allow you to become familiar with the program. The others are worth **15 points each**. The graded discussions will be on the following topics:

Unit 1 (not graded): Please describe yourself. Please include your educational background (where you went to school, major), current degree plan, desire for future ministry, and information about your family (married/children/unique experience growing up, etc.). Include only information that you feel comfortable sharing with the class.

Unit 2: No Discussion. Take the time to work on your confession of faith.

Unit 3 (graded): Both the Separate Baptists and the Regular Baptists have left their marks on Southern Baptist life. List one influence of each group on modern Southern Baptist life and explain its importance.

Unit 4 (graded): There is a desire among some Baptists to drop the requirement of baptism by immersion for church membership. What do you think?

Unit 5: No Discussion. Take the time to work on your research paper.

Unit 6 (graded): The recommendations from the Great Commission Task Force were approved at the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention. Supporters believe this will streamline bureaucracies and spur church planting. Critics are concerned that allowing designated giving to bypass state conventions could begin to dismantle the Cooperative Program and that state conventions in newer areas will be decimated as their funding is reduced. What do you think?

D. Confession of Faith: Each student will write their own personal Confession of Faith. Include Scripture references as support for your views. While you may choose to model your confession after one of the existing confessions, it is not necessary to do so. If you make extensive use of one or more existing confessions, please note this in an introductory paragraph. However, this is your personal confession. Do not simply copy entire sections of a confession. Put it into your own words. Include the elements which you believe are necessary to be a Christian and to practice as a Baptist. Use headings to indicate major necessary topics.

D. Research Paper: Choose one of the following options for your research paper.

Option 1 A professor at a community college in the area where you are serving has asked you to explain if Southern Baptists are any different from other Baptist groups in the United States. Compare your assigned group and its stated beliefs and denominational structure with that of the Southern Baptist Convention. Note the similarities and differences in outlook, teachings, and methods of organization. Compare the “Baptist Faith and Message” with the official Doctrinal Statement or Confession of Faith of the group. Explain what a church needs to do to be considered a cooperating church within that fellowship and how churches are represented at the various denominational levels (voting/financial representation with association, state, nation). Describe who comprises denominational leadership (president and/or executive council) and how it is chosen. Indicate each group’s willingness to participate with interdenominational agencies such as the Baptist World Alliance or World Council of Churches. You may also want to write your group’s denominational headquarters and ask for copies of their Constitution, By-Laws, and Confession of Faith. Finally, as an appendix, include a single-spaced fact sheet on your denomination. It should include information on your denomination’s headquarters (address, phone, web site, etc.), number of members, number of congregations, average worship attendance, seminaries (overseen or endorsed), entities, regional strength (www.thearda.com), distinctives and/or description (if asked, what is unique or distinctive about this group), number of missionaries (international and national) and a brief summary of beliefs and structure. You may also include anything else you find of interest about your group. Your fact sheet should be no longer than two (2) pages and does not count toward the page limit of your paper.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

History 20 points

Summary of Doctrine 20 points

Denominational structure/organization 20 points

Comparison with SBC 20 points

Fact sheet (Appendix) 10 points

Form/Grammar 10 points

American Baptist Association
American Baptist Churches, USA
Baptist Bible Fellowship International
Baptist Missionary Association of America
Canadian Baptist Federation
Canadian National Baptist Convention
Conservative Baptist Association of America
Converge Worldwide [Baptist General Conference]
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches (Canada)
General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, International
General Association of General Baptists
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
World Baptist Fellowship
National Association of Free Will Baptists
National Baptist Convention, USA
North American Baptist Conference
Primitive Baptists (various groups)
Progressive National Baptist Convention

Option 2 You have been asked to give a report to the Baptist World Alliance on Baptist missions and development in a select area of the world. In your report you will:

1. Give a brief history of when Baptist activity (by all Baptist denominations) began in your area and its subsequent development
2. Identify the Baptist denominations currently doing mission work in your area, the number of missionaries they send and type of work they do (hospital, church planting, education). Please note if information is not available on your country because of security reasons.
3. Note if your country also sends missionaries to other countries, listing the countries and the size of the missionary force.
4. Offer an explanation for the number of different Baptist denominations in your country. Example: Why are there 14 Baptist denominations in Japan? – see Wardin. (e.g. historical development, cultural differences, or theological controversy).
5. Include an appendix. Describe the unique challenges to evangelism and Baptist development in your country. Make suggestions for responding to these challenges. Include a statistical summary (creative access countries excluded) of the Baptist denominations in your country (number of congregations/ membership/web sites). It should be two (2) pages, single-spaced, and does not count toward the page limit of your paper.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

History of Baptist work in your country 30 points
Identify Baptist groups sending missionaries to your country 20 points
Identify places where your country sends missionaries 15 points
Explain why there are more than one Baptist group 15 points
Appendix 10 points
Form/Grammar 10 points

Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Brazil
Cameroon
China
Cuba
Democratic Republic of
Congo (Zaire)
Denmark
Germany
India
Jamaica
Japan
Korea
Liberia
Malawi
Mexico
Myanmar (Burma)
Nigeria
Philippines
Russia
Scotland
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Ukraine

Penalties

A. *Tests*: A student who misses a test for anything other than an excused (a death or illness in the family) or a ***previously*** approved reason will not be allowed to take a make up exam.

B. *Papers*: A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Failure to post a copy of the paper on Blackboard will result in the **loss of 5 points**.

C. *Interactive Discussions*: Failure to participate adequately in the threaded discussions and to do so in a timely manner will affect the amount of points awarded.

D. *Plagiarism*: New Orleans Baptist Seminary maintains high academic standards and is not tolerant of plagiarism. If you copy another author's work and present it as your own, you will be caught, and the penalty could be failure on that assignment or the course or expulsion from the Seminary.

Possible Points & Grading Scale

Possible Points Grading Scale

Reading: 30 pts. A = 326-350 pts.

Tests (5 x 25): 125 pts. B = 298-325 pts.
Discussions: 45 pts. C = 270-297 pts.
Confession: 50 pts D = 245-269 pts.
Research Paper: 100 pts. F = 244 - 9 pts.
350 pts.