



**THSE 8301 The Southern Baptist Convention
and Cooperative Program at Work
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Professional Doctoral Special Event Seminar
Summer 2026 – Orlando, FL**

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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

This Special Event Seminar is built around the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and team-taught by the Theological/Historical Studies division and the Church Ministry division. The seminar is held on a yearly basis on-site at the conference location and engages the student in a study of the theology and polity of Southern Baptists as expressed at an annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Students will attend the various sessions of the convention and discuss numerous issues in a small group setting. Emphasis will be placed on persons, events, ideas, and movements in Southern Baptist life as well as on doctrines distinctive to Southern Baptists. In addition to attending the convention sessions, students will complete designated course requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this seminar by fulfilling the requirements should be able to:

1. Recall and write basic information about selected persons, events, ideas, and movements in Southern Baptist life from the assigned readings and seminar discussions;
2. Articulate and define various Baptist decisions proposed and adopted at the Southern Baptist Convention;
3. Comprehend and interpret contemporary issues in Southern Baptist life as represented at the Southern Baptist Convention;
4. Identify and evaluate the theological doctrines and distinctives which Southern Baptists have and do believe;
5. Integrate critically and effectively decisions and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention in preaching, evangelizing, counseling, and various other ministry endeavors; and
6. Dialogue with various convention personnel.

Required Textbooks

- Harper, Keith, and Amy Whitfield. *SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2018. ISBN: 978-1462748433. \$19.99.
- Norman, R. Stanton. *The Baptist Way: Distinctives of a Baptist Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005. ISBN: 978-0805431520. \$27.50.
- Wolfe, Tony, and W. Madison Grace II, eds. *A Unity of Purpose: 100 Years of the SBC Cooperative Program*. Brentwood: B&H, 2025. ISBN: 978-1430097068. \$19.99.

Recommended Texts

- Dever, Mark and Jonathan Leeman, eds. *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015.
- Dockery, David S. *Southern Baptist: Consensus and Renewal*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008.
- _____, ed. *Southern Baptist Identity: An Evangelical Denomination Faces the Future*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2009.
- Finke, Roger, and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. Second Edition. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.
- Wardin, Albert W. *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the U.S.A.* Atlanta: Baptist History and Heritage Society, 2007.

Requirements

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held in **Orlando, FL**. (For information about registration, hotels, etc., visit the website <http://www.sbc.net>.) There will be pre-meeting, meeting, and post-meeting requirements.

The **Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Program at Work** is an “on location” professional doctoral seminar. **The event itself is the classroom.** Students are therefore required to attend and participate in the SBC and EC meetings, as well as the seminar sessions. If you bring your spouse and/or family to the Convention, please inform them that there will be limited family time available from Monday to Wednesday due to scheduled meetings and sessions. Seminar participants are expected to have completed the pre-meeting assignment before arriving at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, students are required to submit all post-meeting assignments by the seminar deadlines.

A. Pre-Meeting Seminar Requirement:

1. **SBC FAQs Reading Quiz Assignment**: Students will read the **Harper/Whitfield** book and write and answer one quiz question (true/false, fill-in-the-blank, or multiple choice, noting the page number of the correct answer) **for each of the 37 questions in Part 1** and an **additional fifteen quiz questions** (with answers and page numbers) **for Part 2**. Please submit one Word document containing the 52 reading quiz questions and answers in the Assignment section of Canvas, due by **11:59 PM on Friday, May 29, 2026**.

B. Seminar Requirements During the SBC Annual Meeting:

SBC Committee Meetings: All students **MUST ATTEND** the following two meetings:

- **Monday, June 8, 9:00-9:45 AM - Informational session with Jonathan Howe and Dr. Jeff Iorg, from the SBC Executive Committee. Location: Rosen Centre Hotel, in Grand Ballroom A/B.** Please note this is the Rosen Centre, not the Rosen Plaza. The 9 AM informational session is “on background” rules. By policy, there may not be any direct quotation or any attribution of any comment to any individual.
- **Monday, June 8, 10:00-11:30 AM - EC Plenary Session. Same location.** The 10 AM plenary session will be open to the public and “on the record.”

Business Sessions: Students **MUST ATTEND** all business sessions of the Annual Meeting. Students should have in their possession (either a hard copy or an electronic copy) the detailed schedule of the SBC Annual Meeting.

Seminar Sessions: In addition to the SBC meetings, students must attend and participate in two on-location **Seminar Sessions**.

- **Monday (June 8), 1:45-2:45 PM. Location: **To Be Announced.****
- **Wednesday (June 10), 2:00-2:30 PM. Location: **To Be Announced.****

NOTE: Students must arrange travel plans to arrive in Orlando by Monday, June 8, and be present at the 9:00 AM Informational session with Jonathan Howe. Students must plan their departure from Orlando after the Annual Meeting concludes on Wednesday, June 10, at 4:00 PM.

C. Seminar Requirements After the Annual Meeting:

1. **Baptist Distinctives Teaching Series Outline:** Students will read Norman’s *The Baptist Way* in its entirety and develop an 8-week teaching outline on Baptist Distinctives that can be used on Sunday or Wednesday nights at your church. Each week’s outline should include a thesis statement, a bulleted outline of your major points, and a list of 3-5 biblical texts, each accompanied by a one-sentence explanation of how the verse supports the Baptist distinctive. The Teaching Series Outline should be no more than 8 pages in length. Please submit your Teaching Series Outline in the Assignment section in Canvas **by 11:59 PM on Friday, June 19, 2026.**
2. **Reflection Paper:** Students will write a Reflection Paper that integrates their experience and assessment of the Southern Baptist Convention. The length of the reflection project will be **12-15 double-spaced pages** (Times New Roman, 12-point), and adhere to Turabian form and style guidelines. Please use section headings rather than chapter divisions. First-person language is permitted. In the paper, students will:

- Briefly describe how this year’s Convention functioned and provide a concise summary of the Southern Baptist Convention
- Evaluate the challenges and opportunities that the Southern Baptist Convention currently has and will face in the future
- Make recommendations on how you believe the Southern Baptist Convention could best meet these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities
- Address any significant decisions, trends, and/or emerging issues that will impact the future of the SBC.

The Reflection Paper will be graded as follows:

Description and Summary	15%
Challenges and Opportunities	30%
Recommendations for the future	30%
Significant decisions, trends, issues	15%
Form and Grammar	10%

Reflection Papers are due in Canvas by 11:59 PM (Central), June 22.

3. **Read and outline** Wolfe and Grace, eds. *A Unity of Purpose: 100 Years of the SBC Cooperative Program*.
 - a. Begin with a statement of the percentage read of the book.
 - b. Turn in outline-style notes on this book. There is flexibility in formatting, but an outline of the content, including a bulleted list of the chapter’s key teachings, is suggested. Devote approximately **one page to each chapter**.
 - c. **The outline is due in Canvas by 11:59 PM (Central), June 26.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student’s course grade will be computed as follows:

- 20%: *SBC FAQs* Reading Quiz Assignment
- 10%: Participation in Monday’s Informational session and EC Plenary session
- 10%: Participation in Business Sessions
- 10%: Participation in two on-location Seminar Sessions
- 10%: Baptist Distinctives Teaching Series Outline
- 20%: Outline of *A Unity of Purpose*
- 20%: Reflection Paper

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 or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.

3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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

Policy Regarding Late Work

Late work will be accepted for a reduced grade (minimum of 30% grade reduction).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Basden, Paul A., ed. *Has Our Theology Changed? Southern Baptist Thought Since 1845*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Brand, Chad, and David Hankins. *One Sacred Effort: The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2006.
- Dockery, David S. *Southern Baptists and American Evangelicals*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.
- George, Timothy, and David S. Dockery. *Baptist Theologians*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.
- Hobbs, Herschel. *What Baptists Believe*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1964.
- Lawless, Chuck, and Adam W. Greenway, editors. *Great Commission Resurgence: Fulfilling God's Mandate in Our Time*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.
- McBeth, H. Leon. *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.
- Sutton, Jerry. *The Baptist Reformation: The Conservative Resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention*. Nashville: B & H, 2000.
- White, Thomas, Jason G. Duesing, and Malcolm E. Yarnell, III, editors. *First Freedom: The Baptist Perspective on Religious Liberty*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.