

# New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

## THSE8301 The Southern Baptist Convention At Work Professional Doctoral Special Event Seminar

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### **NOBTS 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.

### **Professors:**

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### **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 Christian Education 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 Baptist as expressed at an annual meeting of the Southern Baptist convention. Students will attend the various sessions of the convention and discuss numbers 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.

### **Course Goals:**

The student who satisfactorily completes this seminar by fulfillment of the requirements should be able to:

1. Recall and write basic factual 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.

### **Seminar Expectations:**

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held in **Indianapolis, IN, June 9-11, 2008**. For information about registration, hotels, etc., visit the website <http://www.sbc.net>.

The Southern Baptist Convention 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 in its entirety. Please read carefully the SBC meetings and Seminar Sessions required. If you bring your spouse and/or family to the Convention, please be aware that there will be limited family time because of scheduled meetings and sessions. Seminar participants are expected to come to the SBC with assigned

work completed and ready to submit to the appropriate professor at the designated time. In addition, students are to submit all post-seminar assignments in accordance with seminar deadlines.

### **Pre-Seminar Assignment:**

**Textbook Readings and Reading Response:** Seminar participants will read the three required textbooks prior to the seminar. Each student will provide a reading response report (3-5 typed pages, single-spaced) for **each** textbook. The response will include significant contributions, strengths, weaknesses, applications and implications for denominational issues, etc. .

### **Seminar Assignments:**

**Peer-Led Discussions:** Seminar participants will lead discussions from the assigned textbooks or portions of the textbooks. Discussions should reflect: (1) an understanding of the issues and principles discussed; and (2) an application of the issues and principles discovered to ministry within the context of a Southern Baptist church and/or the Southern Baptist Convention. Discussions should demonstrate theological reflection ("what is it?") and ministerial integration ("so what?" or "what difference does this make?").

**SBC Committee Meetings and Press Conference:** All students **must attend** the following three meetings: **The SBC Executive Committee Plenary Session (Monday, June 9, time TBA); the Resolutions Committee Meeting (Tuesday, June 10, time TBA); and the Presidential Press Conference (Tuesday, June 10, time TBA).** As soon as arrangements are finalized, then an email will be sent announcing the times of these meetings. Traditionally, the SBC Executive Committee meeting is on Monday afternoon. Students should plan to arrive at the SBC location no later than noon on Monday. Students must attend all of these meetings. In addition, seminar participants must also attend all Business Sessions of the SBC.

**Seminar Sessions:** In addition to the SBC meetings, seminar participants will attend and participate in two on-location **Seminar Sessions**. The first session will meet **Monday afternoon following the SBC Executive Committee Plenary Session (June 9), ending no later than 6:00 p.m., and the second session will meet on Wednesday afternoon (June 11), ending no later than 6:00 p.m.** Location will be announced when arrangements have been made. All students are required to be in attendance for the entirety of each session; **no exceptions**.

### **Post-Seminar Assignments:**

**Summary and Reports:** Seminar participants will complete and submit the following summaries and reports. The writing style is to be single-spaced, double-spacing between paragraphs, with no indention at the start of a paragraph, using one-inch margins. Times New Roman font (12 point) is preferred. Only the left margin should be justified. A cover page should accompany each report, as per Turabian, with no intervening blank page between the cover page and the summary or report.

1. **Summary of the Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention.** 5 pages. The summary must include major decisions, issues, and reports presented. As a part of this assignment, make a verbal presentation in either a regular church service (Sunday a.m. or p.m. or Wed. p.m.) or to a significant ministry group in the church (Church Council, Staff meeting, Deacons meeting, etc.). Submit a summary of the meeting and subsequent responses.
2. **Report on the Presidential Press Conference.** 3 pages. The report must include a summary of the content, major issues raised/addressed, significant questions from the press, and your personal reaction to the event.

3. **Report on the Resolutions Committee Meeting.** 3 pages. The report must include a summary of the meeting, the committee procedures, and your personal reaction to the Resolutions process. Attach as an Addendum to the report a list of the committee members and a copy of the final draft of the resolutions adopted by the Convention.

**Summary and Reports are to be mailed to Dr. Ogea, postmarked on or before July 18, 2008. NOBTS, ProDoc Office, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126)**

**Reflection Paper:** Students will write a Reflection Paper which integrates their experience and assessment of the Southern Baptist Convention. The project will evaluate the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention and its operation. Students will also identify which Baptist distinctives they observed and demonstrate how these distinctives are expressed in Baptist ministry and/or polity as represented at the Southern Baptist Convention. The Reflection Paper should also address any significant decisions, trends, and/or emerging issues which will impact the future of the SBC. The length of the reflection project will be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, and adhere to the form and style guidelines of Kate L. Turabian, 6th edition. Reflection Papers are to be mailed to Dr. Harsch, postmarked on or before July 18, 2008. NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126.

### **Textbooks:**

- Norman, R. Stanton. *The Baptist Way: Distinctive of a Baptist Church*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2005.
- Sullivan, James L. *Baptist Polity—As I See It*. Revised edition. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998.
- Sutton, Jerry. *The Baptist Reformation: The Conservative Resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.

### **Grading Policies:**

- 30%: Textbook Reading Responses  
10%: Peer-led Discussions/Seminar Participation  
30%: Summary/Reports  
30%: Reflection Paper

### **Bibliography:**

- Akin, Daniel L, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.
- Alexander, David K., ed. *What Can You Believe?* Nashville: Broadman, 1966.
- Armour, Rollin S. *Anabaptist Baptism*. Scottsdale, PA: 1966.
- Baker, Robert A. *The Baptist March in History*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1958.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Baptist Source Book*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1966.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The First Southern Baptists*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1966.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People 1907-1972*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1974.
- Barnes, W. W. *The Southern Baptist Convention 1845-1953*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1954.
- Basden, Paul A. ed. *Has Our Theology Changed? Southern Baptist Thought Since 1845*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

- Brand, Chad and R. Stanton Norman. *Perspectives on Church Government*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2003.
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- Boone, William Cooke. *What We Believe*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1959.
- Boyce, James P. *Abstract of Systematic Theology*. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1887.
- Brackney, Willam H. *The Baptists*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1994.
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- Bush, L. Russ and Tom J. Nettles. *Baptists and the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
- Carroll, B. H. *Baptists and Their Doctrine*. Compiled by J. B. Cranfill. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1913.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Gospel of Redemption*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1945.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Revelation of God*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1936.
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- Dockery, David S. *Southern Baptists and American Evangelicals*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.
- Dargan, E. C. *The Doctrines of Our Faith*. Nashville: Sunday School Board, SBC, 1899.
- Drummond, Lewis, ed. *What the Bible Says: A Systematic Guide to Biblical Doctrines*. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1974.
- Durnbaugh, Donald F. *The Believers' Church*. New York: MacMillan, 1968.
- Early, Joe. *Readings in Baptist History: Four Centuries of Selected Documents*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.
- Eddleman, H. Leo. *The Second Coming of Christ*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1963.
- Estep, W. R. *Baptists and Christian Unity*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1966.
- \_\_\_\_\_, ed. *The Lord's Free People in a Free Land: Essays in Baptist History in Honor of Robert A. Baker*. Fort Worth: Southwestern Seminary, 1976.
- Fickett, Harold L., Jr. *A Layman's Guide to Baptist Beliefs*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1965.
- Fletcher, Jesse C. *The Southern Baptist Convention: A Sesquicentennial History*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- George, Timothy and David S. Dockery. *Baptist Theologians*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.

- Hobbs, Herschel. *The Baptist Faith and Message*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1963.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Fundamentals of Our Faith*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1960.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *What Baptists Believe*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1964.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Evils of Infant Baptism*. Charleston, SC: Southern Baptist Publication Society, 1851. Reprint, Watertown, WI: Baptist Heritage Press, 1988.
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- Howard, Fred D. *Interpreting the Lord's Supper*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1966.
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- Lumpkin, W. L. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1959.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *More Than Just A Name: Preserving Our Baptist Identity*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2001.
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- Ray, Susan. *The Baptist Way*. [Dallas, TX]: Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1975.
- Schaller, Lyle E. *Tattered Trust: Is There Hope for Your Denomination?* Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Mainline Turnaround. Strategies for Congregations and Denominations*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.
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## PERIODICALS

*Baptist History and Heritage* (Publication of the Southern Baptist Historical Society)

*Baptist Quarterly* (Publication of the British Baptist Historical Society)

*Foundations* (Magazine of the American Baptist Historical Society)

*The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* (Publication of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY)

*The Southwestern Journal of Theology* (Publication of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX)

*The Theological Educator* (Publication of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA)

## WEBSITES

[www.baptistcenter.com](http://www.baptistcenter.com)

[www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net)

[www.baptist2baptist.net](http://www.baptist2baptist.net)