



THE CHURCH AND POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT
HIST 6334 – ETHC 6334
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Fall 2018
Tuesday 6:00-8:50 pm

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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

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of theological and historical studies. Lessons learned from the past inform the present and provide guidance for the future.

Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The core value focus of the course will emphasize this semester is *doctrinal integrity*. The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of Baptist formation and development

Disciple Making – use the people from our past to model Christ-like behavior

Servant Leadership – use the people from our past to model servant leadership

Spiritual and Character Formation – model Christian character in relating to those in the Baptist family with whom we disagree

Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation for Baptist distinctives

Worship Leadership – examine the variety of worship styles and practices used by Baptists

Course Description

This course is designed to explore the interaction between the Church and the political arena. Topics include Christians as politicians; political involvement by pastors; and the role the Church plays in society. Attention will be given to contemporary settings and to historical contexts which have set the precedence for modern understandings of church/state relationships.

Student Learning Outcomes

- ▶ Value the study of the history of Christians in the political arena.
- ▶ Be able to apply knowledge of past interactions between the church and politics to a contemporary setting.
- ▶ Be able to formalize a personal response to appropriate interactions between Christians, the church and political involvement.
- ▶ Explore the ethical dimensions of pastors and denominational representatives participating in partisan politics.
- ▶ Explore the ethical dimensions of platform planks, political behavior of candidates, campaign literature and political advertisements.

Texts

Three (3) texts are required for this class. In addition, students will read and review one of the recommended books (**) found in the bibliography.

Ashford, Bruce. *Letters to an American Christian*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1535905138

Sider, Ronald J. *The Scandal of Evangelical Politics: Why are Christians Missing the Chance to Really Change the World?* Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-8010-6837-9

Duesing, Jason G., Thomas White, and Malcomb B. Yarnell III. *First Freedom: The Baptist Perspective on Religious Liberty*. 2d Edition. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016.
ISBN: 978-1433644375

Course Requirements

A. Text Review: Each student will read all three required texts and be prepared to discuss them in class by the due date. However, the student will write a review of only one (1) of them. Assignments will be made on the first day of class by the professors. The review will be written as though for an academic magazine or journal. It should:

- 1) identify each book's main thesis or purpose,
- 2) give a brief summary of the contents,
- 3) include an evaluation of the work's strengths and weaknesses,

All quotations and direct references to sections in the book should be indicated by page numbers within parentheses. Citations or paraphrases from other sources should be noted and documented using either footnotes or endnotes. Review should be 4-6 pages in length, single-spaced. **Due September 11, 2018.**

B. Book Review: Each student will write a review of a book from the Bibliography. Choice of book must be approved by the professors. No duplications will be allowed. Books will be assigned on a first come first served basis on the first day of class. The review will follow the above Text

Review guidelines above. Reviews should be 2-3 pages in length, single-spaced. Students will present their review during class as a basis for discussion. **Due October 2, 2018.**

Recommended review texts are indicated by ** in the Bibliography.

- C. Research Paper:** Each student will write a research paper on a topic related to the class. Topics **must** be approved by the professor. The paper must be double spaced and follow Turabian, latest 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 appendix should come before the bibliography and be single spaced. The text of your paper (not counting table of contents, appendix, or bibliography) should be 12-15 pages in length (no more, no less). Use 5 - 10 sources with a minimum of three (3) books (do not use only Internet sources). A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due (excluding Sunday) an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Projects will be graded on clear organization, spelling, and grammar as well as content. Examples of Turabian form will be available in Blackboard. **Due October 23, 2018.**
- D. Campaign Observation:** Each student will observe the campaign of a candidate running for office this semester. Record your observations of how faith is expressed by the campaign and the candidate. Write a 2-3 page single-spaced evaluation of your observations. Types of activities include, but are not limited to: speeches given by the candidate, interviews with campaign workers and campaign rallies. Keep a log of how your time was spent with the campaign. Students will need approximately 20 hours during the course of the semester to fulfill this requirement. **Due November 27, 2018.**
- E. Articles and Participation:** There will be articles and essays assigned throughout the semester. These will be primary source documents and historical essays which will highlight the historical development of the relationship between Christians and the political world. These readings will become the foundation for classroom discussion.

Grading Scale

Text Review	25%
Book Review	15%
Research Paper	40%
Articles and Participation	10%
<u>Campaign Observation Perspective</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE

Date	Class Discussion Topic	Reading and Other Assignments
8-21	Introduction to the Class Expectations Choosing Book Reviews	(Assignments are due on the adjacent date)
8-28	Political Biographies (Oral Reflection) Choose Paper Topics	
9-4	Study Day—Prepare Text Reviews	
9-11	Text Reviews Due	
9-18	Outside Readings: Historical Context	
9-25	Immigration Conference	Leavell Chapel, 7-10 pm
10-2	Book Reviews 1-4	
10-9	Book Reviews 5-8	
10-16	FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK
10-23	Book Reviews 9-12	Research Papers #1-3 Due
10-30	Research Papers # 1-3	Research Papers # 4-6 Due
11-6	Research Papers # 4-6	Research Papers # 7-9 Due
11-13	Research Papers # 7-9	Research Papers # 10-12 Due
11-20	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK
11-27	Campaign Observation Due	
12-4	Research Papers # 10-12	
12-11	Reserve Date and Time	6:00-8:00
	**Each student should provide a copy of his or her paper for Dr. Riley and upload to Blackboard for each member of the class	Class members are expected to read each paper before it is presented in class

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