



# LEAVELL COLLEGE

## NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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### LSCM4300: 30 SENIOR SEMINAR

Spring 2019 (term 193)

Tuesday, 6:00 PM to 7:59 PM

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*The mission of Leavell College 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.*

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#### **Core Value**

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Doctrinal Integrity*. —“Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

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#### **Course Description**

The Senior Seminar is designed to complete the studies for the baccalaureate degree. The purpose is to help prepare seniors for ministry and/or graduate studies. Emphasis will be placed on a synthesis of knowledge within each discipline, utilizing research, writing skills, and oral presentation skills. *Successful completion of Research and Writing is a prerequisite for this class. Students also must have earned more than 90 credit hours before enrolling in this course.*

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#### **General Education Competencies (GECs)**

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GECs #1, #2, and #3.

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**Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)**

Leavell College has identified three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BACM and three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BAM:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
1. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
2. Service and Leadership (BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLO #1 and BACM/BAM PSLOs #2 and #3.

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**Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**

At the conclusion of the semester, you will be able to

1. understand the importance of critical thinking and the necessity of a synthesis of knowledge;
2. demonstrate through discussion/communication and in written assignments the ability to integrate the various disciplines experiences throughout the Leavell College tenure; and
3. relate critical thinking and a synthesis of knowledge through the development and defense of the Senior Paper.

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**Course Texts**

Required:

Allen, Jason K. *Southern Baptists and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Reflection, Renewal, and Recomittment*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016. ISBN 9781433644399

Recommended:

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN13: 978-0226816388

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**Course Requirements and Grading**

1. You will be required to attend seminar meetings and participate verbally in discussions as a result of reading the required articles, student papers, and other pertinent information. *This assignment relates to CSLOs #1, #2, and #3.*
2. You will be required to read selected chapters from the required course textbook. You will then write and submit critiques of the chapters. The critiques, one page in length, must be formatted according to the sample in Course Documents. In each critique, you will state what you believe to be the thesis of the chapter, highlight one or two key claims of the author, explain the validity of the claims, and discuss the strengths or weaknesses of those selected claims, particularly related to the thesis of the chapter. You are not summarizing the material but learning to think critically about the author's work. Support your claims with data from the chapter. *Do not write in first person* for these

critiques. Please double space your work. You must bring the chapter critiques to class on the day the chapters will be discussed. A seven-point penalty per day late will be applied to any late critique. *This assignment relates to GECs #1 and #3; BACM PSLOs #1 and #3; and CSLOs #1 and #2.*

3. You will be required to submit several mini-assignments related to the Senior Thesis (or Senior Paper or Critical Paper—I use terms interchangeably) that you will be writing. A Senior Thesis is a paper in which you are attempting either to defend or deny a thesis statement. For Senior Seminar, the thesis paper must have a biblical or theological basis.
  - A. The first of these mini-assignments is a well-developed thesis statement and a brief paragraph description of the Senior Thesis you intend to write. First, on the day we discuss topics, you must be prepared to present at least two possible topics along with a brief explanation of your perceived validity of those topics; this information should be typed and brought to class. The rest of the class members will then discuss the possible topics indicating their perceptions of the appropriateness of the proposed topics. In this way, the class takes ownership of the topics for the papers through thinking through the merits of the proposed topics. Please note that not all topics are appropriate for a thesis paper, and based on class interaction and professor input regarding the topic/thesis, students may have to choose an alternative topic. Then, after the topics have been approved, students will then write a final, formal thesis statement. A hard copy of the final thesis statement will be due at the beginning of the class period on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Late thesis submissions will affect your grade for this assignment.
  - B. The second mini-assignment will be a preliminary bibliography of fifteen possible sources for the paper. The bibliography is to be annotated, meaning that the student will write several sentences about the source indicating its overall content and its usefulness in the paper. An example of an annotated bibliography entry can be found on page 9 of this syllabus. A hard copy of the annotated bibliography will be due at the beginning of the class period on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Late submission, lack of annotations, fewer than the required sources, and/or poor Turabian will affect your grade on this assignment.
  - C. The final mini-assignment will be a detailed outline of the paper. You will not be submitting a rough draft of your paper, so the outline will be my only chance to assess the logic of the paper. A hard copy of the outline will be due at the beginning of the class period on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Late, poor, or incomplete work will affect your grade on this assignment. Additionally, failure to submit an outline will result in a penalty of one-half of a letter grade on the final paper.  
*These assignments relate to CSLO #3.*

4. You will be required to research, write, and present a critical paper (Senior Thesis) on the topic approved by the class (with professor input). The paper must have a biblical or theological basis. The paper must be 14-16 pages of text. (This pagination does not include the title page, blank page, contents page, or bibliography.) Papers shorter or longer than the required length will be penalized as follows: two points for each page shorter than the required minimum length, and one point for each page exceeding the required maximum length. The format must be according to the latest edition of Turabian and must use footnotes for citing sources within the paper. Font should be 12-point Times New Roman for the entire paper (text and footnotes). The left margin should be justified. An electronic copy of the latest Turabian Tutor is available in Course Documents. The Senior Thesis will be graded on style, format, grammar, and Turabian. (See grading rubric in Course Documents.)

**An electronic copy of the paper must be submitted electronically as ONE WORD DOCUMENT AND ONE PDF DOCUMENT (via Assignments) by 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Papers not submitted by the due date will not be accepted, and you therefore will not be able to pass the course.** The professor will upload the copies of the papers to Blackboard so that all students can access them.

*Note: This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. This assignment is related to GECs #1 and #3; BACM PSLOs #1, #2, and #3; and CSLOs #1 and #3.*

5. During the last two to four weeks of the course, you will read and critique all other students' Senior Theses. I will post a schedule of which papers will be read and discussed for each of those weeks. You will be completing an evaluation form for **each paper** in the class, and these forms are counted towards your grade. The process for the evaluation forms will be as follows:
  - a. First, consult the schedule so you will know which papers to read during a given week.
  - b. Second, download the Senior Thesis so that you can read it. I'd strongly suggest that you print the paper so that you can mark on it as you will be expected to give the paper a grade.
  - c. Third, download the evaluation form (available in Course Documents). As you read the paper, you should mark the paper according to the areas identified on the evaluation form. You should also mark strengths and weakness of the paper.
  - d. Complete the evaluation form and bring it with you to class on the day the paper is being discussed. Any late evaluation forms will incur a penalty of one letter grade per day late.

*This assignment relates to GEC #1 and CSLOs #1 and #2.*

6. On the day your paper is to be discussed in class, you will give a formal, oral defense of your paper. In that defense, you will restate your thesis and justify your position, explain some of the key arguments in your paper (both for and against the thesis), explain the reasoning that led to your conclusion, and review what you perceive to be your strengths

and weaknesses. Finally, you will note what you wish you have done differently. You will be assessed formally on this presentation, so prepare well and dress appropriately. *Note: This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. This assignment is related to GECs #1 and #3; BACM PSLOs #1, #2, and #3; and CSLOs #1, #2, and #3.*

7. You will give an oral critique of one senior paper of another class member. In your oral critique, you will be required to identify the thesis of the paper, to indicate if the writer of the paper successfully defended that thesis and refuted any opposing arguments, and to address issues of mechanics (Turabian, grammar, syntax) as well as content (evidence presented, organization, logical support of thesis/conclusion, etc.). *This assignment relates to GECs #1 and #2, BACM PSLO #2, and CSLOs #1, #2, and #3.*
  
8. You must submit a reflection paper regarding your insights on how well Leavell College has equipped you to meet our program expectations. The specific prompt for the paper will be available near the end of the semester. The reflection paper must be 4-5 typed pages long and is due by 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated on the Course Schedule. Students who fail to address the prompt will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment. The reflection papers will be submitted electronically (via Assignments). **Late papers will not be accepted.** *This assignment relates to GECs #1 and #3; BACM PSLOs #1, #2, and #3; and CSLOs #1, #2, and #3.*

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### Course Evaluation

The grading scale as outlined in the Leavell College Catalog will be utilized:

A = 93-100; B = 85-92; C = 77-84; D = 70-76; F = 69 and below

The final grade will be determined in the following manner:

average of chapter critiques	15%
formal thesis statement	1%
annotated bibliography	2%
detailed outline	2%
Senior Thesis	40%
oral defense	10%
evaluation forms	10%
oral critique of a peer's paper	5%
reflection paper	15%

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**Course Outline** (Note: With the exception of the date of the reflection paper/final exam, the rest of the dates and topics are subject to change. The professor will give at least one week notice, if possible, regarding any changes.)

<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Professor/Student Responsible</b>
1/22	Introduction to the course; organization of the course; assignments; lecture on writing style, key Turabian issues, plagiarism, thesis statements, and critical thinking	Lema
1/28	Chapter Critiques and discussion of the following chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The Cooperative Program and the Future of Collaborative Ministry”</li> <li>• From Babylon Baptist to Baptists in Babylon: The SBC and the Broader Evangelical Community”</li> </ul>	
	Senior Seminar Topic: Begin discussion	ALL
2/5	Chapter Critiques and discussion of the following chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Southern Baptists and the Quest for Theological Identity: Unavoidable Questions for the Twenty-First Century”</li> <li>• “Who Are Southern Baptists? Toward an Intergenerational Identity”</li> </ul>	
	Discussion of Topics	ALL
2/12	Chapter Critiques and discussion of the following chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A Denomination Always for the Church: Ecclesiological Distinctives as a Basis for Confessional Cooperation”</li> <li>• “Steel-Toed Birkenstocks and Doctrine-Loving Christians: Southern Baptist Witness and Ethics in a New Sexual Age”</li> </ul>	
	Discussion of Topics	ALL
2/19	Chapter Critiques and discussion of the following chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The Future of the IMB and Our Collaborative Great Commission Work”</li> <li>• “Every Church on Mission: The North American Mission Board in the Twenty-First Century”</li> </ul>	
	Bring typed thesis to class.	ALL
2/26	Chapter Critiques and discussion of the following chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Training the Next Generation of Pastors, Ministers, and Missionaries: Southern Baptist Theological Education in the Twenty-First Century”</li> <li>• “Every Kindred, Tongue, and Tribe? Ethnic Diversity in the SBC”</li> </ul>	
	Typed, <i>annotated</i> bibliography with minimum of twenty sources (to include books, journal articles, and	ALL

	internet/electronic sources) due in Blackboard via Assignments	
	Final discussion of paper topics; discussion of students' roles in critique session; guidelines for critiquing papers	
3/5	CLASS WILL NOT MEET	
	Typed outlines including major points and at least two subpoints under each major point due in Blackboard via Assignments	ALL
3/12	CLASS WILL NOT MEET—Research Time	
3/18-22	SPRING BREAK	
3/19	CLASS WILL NOT MEET—Research Time	
3/26	Papers due by 5:00 p.m.—Upload your paper as ONE Word Document AND one PDF document to the Blackboard shell via Assignments. Consult the syllabus for information regarding late submissions. <b>Late papers will not be accepted.</b> CLASS WILL NOT MEET.	
4/2*		
4/9*		
4/16*		
4/23*		
4/30*		
5/7	<b>Reflection papers due by 2:00 p.m.—to be submitted via Assignments in Blackboard</b>	

\*We will complete this portion of the course schedule later in the semester.

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### **Additional Course Information**

*1. Attendance Policy:* As per the Leavell College Catalog, school policies regarding absences and tardies will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than nine hours will automatically receive a grade of “F” for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one hour of absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period and after each break. The student is responsible for contacting the teacher if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken. The student is responsible for all material, including that which was covered during an absence. Any missed assignments must be made up within one week of the original due date or the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. **Unless otherwise noted, all late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter.**

2. *Blackboard Sites*: All communications outside of class will come as emails via Blackboard, and any written assignments will be submitted via Assignments in Blackboard. Students are responsible to ensure that the contact information in Blackboard is current.
3. *Computer/Phone Usage Policy*: A no-technology policy is in effect for this course. At no time during class should students be using a computer or a tablet. Phones/smart phones should be turned off or placed in silent mode (not vibrate mode) during class. Students needing to make or receive texts or calls should arrange to do so outside of class time. The professor reserves the right to ask students to leave phones/smart phones at home.
4. *Document Format*: With the exception of the final paper, all written assignments must be submitted as Word documents (.doc or .docx). Documents submitted in any other format will not be graded. Please use Times New Roman 12-point font, use one-inch margins on all sides, and double space all work. Unless otherwise noted, a cover page is not needed for assignments, but your name should be visible on the first page of each assignment.
5. *Special Instructions*: In the event the seminary campus is closed, please take your course materials with you and be prepared to move the discussion to an online format via Blackboard. I will post any necessary schedule revisions to Blackboard.
6. *Plagiarism Policy*: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, 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 Leavell College for further action.

A NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARISM: All written assignments must be your own work!

- a. If you use an author's exact words, you must put his/her words in quotation marks and footnote the source. You must also cite the author in the text of the paper.
  - b. If you paraphrase, you must footnote the source. You must also cite the author in the text of the paper.
  - c. Any information that you include in your paper that you did not previously know must be footnoted because that information came from someone else.
  - d. If you do not footnote someone else's information, you are plagiarizing that person's work.
  - e. If your paraphrases are too close to the original (i.e. you change an adjective here or there), you have committed inadvertent plagiarism. Inadvertent plagiarism is still plagiarism.
  - f. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and the penalties can include a failing grade in the course and/or dismissal from Leavell College.
7. *Technology Help*: If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.



## Instructions for Mini-assignments Related to the Thesis Paper

### Thesis Statement

The first mini-assignment is your thesis statement. Because you are writing a thesis paper—a paper in which you attempt to defend or deny a thesis statement—a well-written thesis statement is a critical component of the paper. Your thesis statement must make a claim and should convey to the reader that the claim you are making has been researched thoroughly and is defensible by evidence. Your thesis cannot be an opinion but must indicate to the reader the topic which you are arguing and what claim you are making about that argument.

### Annotated Bibliography

For the second mini-assignment, you will submit an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to the sources that you will use (or may use) in your final paper. Following each correctly formatted citation, you will provide a brief descriptive, evaluative paragraph known as an annotation. In other words, you will write several sentences about the source including its overall content and its possible usefulness in the paper. An example of an annotated bibliography entry is as follows:

Schultz, Thom, and Joani Schultz. *Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: And How to Fix It*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 1993.

The Schultzes argued that churches are not teaching their members to apply what they are learning from God's word. They suggested several strategies for getting learners to apply biblical truths. This book will be useful in the section of the paper advocating the use of Sunday school as a means of discipleship.

### Detailed Outline

The final mini-assignment is your outline. The outline should include up to *five* first-level sections. The first section will be the introduction and the last section will be the conclusion, leaving you with two or three sections for the body of your paper. Under each section heading, you must include *at least* two subpoints along with at least one source name in which you can find information about that subpoint. This outline will become the basis for the contents page in your paper. Note that because you will not submit rough drafts for your paper, the outline will be the only chance for the professor to assess the logic of your paper.