



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Baptist Heritage: HIST 5323

Summer 2023 – Online

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

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. An additional purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the history of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Program. Students will gain an understanding of the significance and relationship of the Cooperative Program to the SBC and NOBTS, and how the Cooperative Program not only assists all NOBTS students, but also assists the churches of the SBC in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Student Learning Outcomes

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.
 - Analyze and evaluate existing Baptist confessions of faith in order to create a personal confession of faith.

Embedded Assignment

The Confession of Faith is an embedded assignment associated with this course. Information on the assignment is under Requirements and the rubric after the Emergency Plan.

Course Teaching Methodology

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

Textbooks

There are four (4) required books for this class. These books complement one another as tools for understanding Baptist heritage.

[C] Chute, Anthony L., Nathan A. Finn, and Michael A. G. Haykin. *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2015. ISBN: 978-1433673757

[K] Kidd, Thomas S., and Barry Hankins. *Baptists in America: A History*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0199977536

[H] Harper, Keith, and Amy Whitfield. *SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2018. ISBN: 978-1462748433

[D] Dallimore, Arnold. *Spurgeon: A New Biography* (Banner of Truth, 1985) ISBN 9780851514512

Course Requirements

A. Exams:

There will be six (6) exams, each worth 25 points, given throughout the semester. The lowest exam 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 exam, then take it "open memory." You are on the honor system. Exams are based upon online lectures and readings from your textbook, *The Baptist Story*.

Exams will be available throughout the course and can be taken early, but must be completed **before 11:59 pm (Central Time)** on the date below.

Unit 1 – June 2

Unit 2 – July 1

Unit 3 – July 8

Unit 4 – July 15

Unit 5 – July 22

Unit 6 – July 28

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 exam. 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. Threaded Discussions:

Each student is required to participate in the threaded discussions (1 main post and at least 2 replies to others). The dates for the scheduled discussions can be found on the Class Calendar. The instructor reserves the right to start an unscheduled threaded discussion. If this happens, the student will be informed of the decision and will be expected to participate in the discussion. The number of points a student earns from the threaded discussions will be calculated primarily on the basis of the substance (as opposed to length) of their posts. All postings **MUST** be civil, respectful, timely and proofread before being submitted. Must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date. See due dates in the course calendar below.

The threaded 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. You are welcome and encouraged to reply to other posts but you are NOT required to for this post.

Unit 2 (graded): Baptists were primed for growth when the Act of Toleration was passed. Instead, they lost ground, even as the Great Awakening was happening around them. From the list of factors contributing to the decline, give the two (2) factors you believe were the most crucial and explain why.

Unit 3: No Discussion. Take the time to work on other assignments.

Unit 4 (graded): There is a trend away from involving the congregation in making decisions that affect church life and consolidating all authority in the hands of a few leaders. Should the leadership be accountable to the people in the pew? If so, what should this look like?

Unit 5: No Discussion. Take the time to work on other assignments.

Unit 6 (graded): In the past, many Southern Baptist churches gave 10% or more of their budgets to support Kingdom ministry through the Cooperative Program. Since 2010, churches can consider finances used to support specific mission endeavors (adopting a people group or church plant) as part of their Cooperative Program giving. What impact does this have on non-designated ministries?

D. Book Review:

Students will read and write a review of the book *SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference*. **Due June 10th by 11:59pm.** The assignment should consist of:

(a) a Turabian/NOBTS style **cover page**

(b) a **summary** of the book describing the primary points and/or major ideas. In particular, students should summarize the sections of the book dealing with the Cooperative Program, the BF&M, the SBC annual meeting, the Conservative Resurgence, and the entities of the SBC

(c) a concluding **assessment** describing how the book expanded and enhanced the student's understanding.

The summary and assessment combined are to be between 1200 and 1500 words, typed single-spaced in Times New Roman (12 pt.). Citations from *SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference* may be done with parenthetical references—just the page number in parentheses.

Tips for writing the summary:

- Read the book, taking notes which highlight the major point(s) of the chapter
- Compile notes for each chapter and note only the main points

- Summarize the main points into a few sentences
- When shifting between main themes, include page numbers in parenthetical notation to indicate where the point can be found in the book
- Parenthetical notations consist of only the page number inside parentheses
- Use direct quotations sparingly and only when unavoidable
- Like all formal writing, do not use first person or contractions

Writing the personal assessment:

- For this part of the assignment first person is allowed and encouraged
- Describe how the book expanded and enhanced your understanding. This is not a critique of the book, but what you learned from the assignment.

The summary and personal assessment are to be between 1200-1500 words. The paper is worth **50 points** and will be evaluated according to the following manner:

Summary:	25 pts
Assessment:	15 pts
Grammar:	5 pts
Style:	5 pts

E. 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, or if you are not a Baptist, 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 (or your denominational background if not Baptist). Use headings to indicate major necessary topics. Doctrines that must be covered are:

- God
- Bible
- Humanity
- Salvation
- Church
 - Definition – who makes up the church
 - Who has authority over the congregation (make budget, call pastor, select leaders)
 - Who are the leaders (pastor, deacon, elder, bishop, priest, pope)
 - How are decisions made (consensus of people, leadership informs, pastor dictates)
 - How many ordinances, what are they

- o Last things

You may include additional topics as you see fit. Your confession **must** have a title page and a table of contents. There are no page limits and it may be single spaced. The Confession is **worth 75 points. Due July 28 by 11:59pm.**

F. Book Questionnaire

Each student is required to read *Spurgeon: A New Biography* and complete a questionnaire that is found in the syllabus and in Canvas. The completed questionnaire must be submitted for grading through Canvas. The Questionnaire is **worth 45 points** must be submitted by **July 8th at 11:59pm.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Reading:	30 pts.	A = 330-355 pts.
Unit Exams (5 x 25):	125 pts.	B = 302-329 pts.
Threaded Discussions:	30 pts.	C = 273-301 pts.
Book Review:	50 pts.	D = 248-272 pts.
Confession:	75 pts.	F = 247 - ↓ pts.
Book Questionnaire:	<u>45 pts.</u>	
	355 pts.	

Attendance Policy – Online Class

- Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Penalties

- Papers:* A late paper or final exam will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed.
- Plagiarism:* A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, 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 Students for further action. **See the Graduate Catalog for**

more information on the Definition of Plagiarism and Consequences for Violations of Plagiarism.

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.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/- Email for general technical questions/support requests.
2. Selfserve@nobts.edu- Email technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
3. Canvas@nobts.edu Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas.nobts.edu / nobts.instructure.com.
4. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
5. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.
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).

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Canvas for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Canvas, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Canvas.

Class Calendar

[C] Chute: *The Baptist Story*
 [K] Kidd: *Baptists in America*
 [D] Dallimore: *Spurgeon*
 [H] Harper: *SBC FAQs*

****All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the day of the week that they are listed below****

Week	Dates	Assignment
Week 1	May 29-June 3	<i>Thread: Personal Intro</i> Reading: H: 1-27 K: 1-38
Week 2	June 4-10	Reading: H: 27-52 D: 3-40 K: 39-75 SBC FAQs Book Review Due
Week 3	June 11-17	Reading: C: 11-21, 325-345 D: 43-87 K: 92-97
Week 4	June 18-24	<i>Thread: Your opinion</i> Reading: C: 20-27, 39-45 D: 91-201 K: 98-139 Due: Exam and Reading Report #1
Week 5	June 25-July 1	<i>Thread: Respond to classmates</i> Reading: C: 45-54, 61-74 C: 99-110, 202-209, 213-215, 234-236, 263-265 D: 205-244 K: 149-165 Due: Exam and Reading Report #2
Week 6	July 2-8	<i>Thread: Your opinion</i> Reading: C: 27-35, 54-58, 74-83, 87-94 K: 166-182 Due: Exam & Reading Report #3 Spurgeon Questionnaire Due
Week 7	July 9-15	<i>Thread: Respond to classmates</i> Reading: C: 115-136 C: 94-99, 137-138, 152-161, 230-232 C: 163-169, 187-201, 215-225, 232-234 K: 183-227 Due: Exam and Reading Report #4
Week 8	July 16-22	<i>Thread: Your opinion</i> Reading: C: 169-171, 175-184, 225-230 C: 239-250, 259-263 K: 228-246 Due: Exam and Reading Report #5
Week 9	July 23-28	<i>Thread: Respond to classmates</i> Reading: C: 250-259, 267-291, 295-319 K: 247-252 Due: Exam & Reading Report #6 Confession of Faith

**Embedded Assignment Assessment Rubric for
HIST5323 Baptist Heritage**

Semester _____

Section _____

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 PTS)	BASIC (1 PT)	COMPETENT (2 PTS)	GOOD (3 PTS)	EXCELLENT (4 PTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to Understand Baptist distinctives, polity, and significant theological concepts related to Baptists					
APPLICATION	Able to apply principles learned from the study of Baptist history to church and ministry today					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate understanding and application of principles learned from the study of Baptist history					

Book Questionnaire Assignment

Read Dallimore's biography of Spurgeon and answer each question below. You must write each answer in your own words (unless quoting Dallimore). You may not receive assistance from anyone else or any other source while answering these questions. You must submit the completed questionnaire through Canvas. Questions worth 2 points must be at least 50 words in length (except #1). Questions worth 5 points must be at least 100 words in length. 45 points total.

1. Identify who Charles Spurgeon was for someone who has never even heard of him. You must do this in one or two sentences. (1 point)
2. What justification does Dallimore provide for producing yet another biography of Spurgeon? In other words, how does Dallimore say his biography of Spurgeon differs from most others? Appraise the degree to which Dallimore achieved his goals for this biography? (2 points)
3. Identify and appraise the aspects of Spurgeon's ancestry and childhood that make it unsurprising that Spurgeon later became such an effective preacher? Explain. (2 points)
4. When and how was Spurgeon converted? Why is his conversion experience surprising in light of his ancestry and childhood? (2 points)
5. When, how, and why did Spurgeon become a Baptist? (2 points)
6. When, how and why did Spurgeon enter the ministry of preaching? (2 points)
7. Where did Spurgeon first become a full-time pastor? How and to what extent was Spurgeon prepared for pastoral ministry? Evaluate his ministry at his first church. (2 points)
8. When, how and why did Spurgeon become the pastor of the New Park Street Baptist Church? What was the state of the church before Spurgeon's arrival as pastor? What happened to the church during Spurgeon's first year as pastor? (2 points)
9. Describe Spurgeon's preaching. (5 points)
10. How did Spurgeon conduct church? In other words, what were some notable policies and practices instituted by Spurgeon at NPSBC/The Metropolitan Tabernacle? (5 points)
11. What was the Downgrade Controversy? In your estimation, why was it an important event in Church/Baptist history? (5 points)
12. Many pastors today consider Spurgeon as someone to emulate. What things that helped make Spurgeon successful can you emulate? What things that helped make Spurgeon successful are you incapable of emulating? (5 points)
13. Why is Spurgeon historically significant? What is his place in the larger picture of church history? (5 points)
14. Evaluate Spurgeon's importance and relevance to Baptist history, particularly in light of contemporary Baptist issues and controversies. (5 points)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bount, Douglas K. and Joseph D. Wooddell, eds. *Baptist Faith and Message 2000: Critical Issues in America's Largest Protestant Denomination*. Lanham, MD: Roman & Littlefield Publishing, 2007.
- Dever, Mark and Jonathan Leeman, eds. *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2015.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *The Baptist Congregation*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1985; reprint, Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 1998.
- Leonard, Bill J. *Baptist Ways: A History*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2003.
- Lumpkin, W. L., ed. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Valley Forge: Judson, 1969.
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- Norman, R. Stanton. *The Baptist Way: Distinctives of a Baptist Church*. Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 2005.
- Pelt, Owen D. and Ralph L. Smith, *The Story of the National Baptists*. New York: Vantage Press, 1960.
- Renfree, Harry A. *Heritage and Horizon: The Baptist Story in Canada*. The Canadian Baptist Federation, 1988.
- Sanford, Don A. *A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptist*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Shelley, Bruce. *A History of Conservative Baptists*. Wheaton, IL: Conservative Baptist Press, 1981.
- Sullivan, James L. *Baptist Polity--As I See It*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, rev. ed. 1998.
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- Wardin, Albert W., ed. *Baptists Around the World: A Comprehensive Handbook*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.
- Weaver, Aaron D. *CBF at 25 Stories of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*. Macon, GA: Nurturing Faith Inc, 2016.