



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

THE CHURCH AND POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT HIST 6334 – ETHC 6334

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Fall 2020

Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:20 am

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Seminary Mission Statement

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

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 *mission focus*. 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. The ISBNs below help you find the correct book. However, e-books or other formats of the text are acceptable.

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

Leeman, Jonathan. *How the Nations Rage: Rethinking Faith and Politics in a Divided Age*. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2018. ISBN: 978-1400218448

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

Course Requirements

*** **Flex students** have the option of participating live through BlueJeans to present their work or recording their presentation and posting it on Blackboard prior to class on the due date. Class meetings after the Thanksgiving Break will all be through BlueJeans. There will be no on campus meeting. ***

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 beginning September 15, 2020.**

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 beginning October 8, 2020.**

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 November 5, 2020.**

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 beginning December 3, 2020.**

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. All students will post comments regarding a Flex student's video presentation. **Flex students** who do not participate live through BlueJeans will post comments in Blackboard on all presentations made on a given class day. Students who do participate live, are invited to add comments as well. Comments need to be made within 1 week after posting.

Grading Scale

Text Review	20%
Book Review	15%
Research Paper	40%
Articles and Participation	15%
<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
8-25	Introduction to the Class, Expectations	
8-27	Choosing Book Reviews Christ and Culture	
9-1	Political Biographies (Oral Reflection)	
9-3	Choose Paper Topics	
9-8	Religious Liberty - Biblical Insight	
9-10	Religious Liberty - Historical Development	Thomas Jefferson's letters
9-15	Text Reviews	
9-17	Text Reviews	
9-22	Religious Liberty - Legal Perspective	
9-24	Religious Liberty - Supreme Court Interpretation	
9-29	Outside Readings: Historical Context	John Kennedy, Saddleback
10-1	Outside Readings: Historical Context	Hindu Congressional Prayer
10-8	Book Reviews 1-3	
10-10	Book Reviews 4-5	
10-15	Book Reviews 6-8	
10-17	Book Reviews 9-10	
FALL BREAK		
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10-27	Pastors and Politics	
10-29	Study Day – Prepare Research Papers	
11-3	Pastors and Politics	
11-5	Election Evaluation	Research Papers # 1-2 Due

11-10	Research Papers # 1-2	Research Papers # 3-4 Due
11-12	Research Papers # 3-4	Research Papers # 5-6 Due
11-17	Research Papers # 5-6	Research Papers # 7-8 Due
11-19	Research Papers # 7-8	Research Papers # 9-10 Due

THANKSGIVING BREAK
THANKSGIVING BREAK

12-1	Research Papers # 9-10
12-3	Campaign Observations # 1-5
12-8	Campaign Observations # 6-10
12-10	Summary and Overview

**Each student should provide a copy of his or her paper for the professors and upload a copy to Blackboard for each member of the class

Class members are expected to read each paper before it is presented in class

NOLA2U Flex Students

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

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 site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Penalties

- A. *Reviews and Papers:* A late paper will be assessed an initial **10 point penalty**. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10 point penalty** will be assessed. Failure to post an additional copy of the paper on Blackboard for access by all the class will result in the **loss of 5 points**.
- B. *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.**

Submission of Assignments

- A. **Text and Book Reviews:** Reviews must be submitted prior to the start of class on Blackboard.

B. Research Papers should be **posted twice**. First, submit it through SafeAssign in the Assignments area. You can check how well you have cited your research by first submitting a draft to SafeAssign. Secondly, submit your paper in the appropriate area in Discussion Board. Attach your paper by clicking on the Browse button and finding the copy of your paper. Remember to click Submit or the paper will not post properly. This allows the rest of the class to read your paper and learn from your research. I want you all to be able to benefit from the others' research and writing. Your paper **must** be posted a .pdf document. [WordPerfect can save a document in .pdf and you can download a program from the [Software Downloads to be used in NOBTS Blackboard Courses](#) link that will work for MS Word documents (Apple's Pages is not acceptable)]. Posting your paper in .pdf format preserves your margins and spacing. Failure to post your paper in a .pdf format will result in a **5 point penalty**.

Please do not send your assignments to me as email attachments unless I request you to do so or unless there is a compelling reason. You may send me an email announcing that you have submitted an assignment, but, if you follow the correct procedures, I will find it. I enjoy hearing from my students, but my Inbox fills up pretty quickly with attachments, and then I have to shift them over to the proper location.

Help for Writing Papers

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard 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>. 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.

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.

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 Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, 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 Blackboard.

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