

**THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION AND
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AT WORK - THSE 8301
Professional Doctoral Special Event Seminar
SPRING 2015**

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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 the course is to expose students to the work and the different kinds of ministry behind the Southern Baptist Convention when in session. Students will also learn how the Cooperative Program works to facilitate Convention-related ministry.

Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

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

Theological and Historical Heritage – comprehensive overview of Southern Baptist identity and the value of the Cooperative Program

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

Servant Leadership – witness servant leadership as it is modeled at the Southern Baptist Convention

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

Biblical Exposition – examine various preaching styles at the Southern Baptist Convention

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

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 numerous 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

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.

Required Texts

Brand, Chad and David Hankins. *One Sacred Effort: The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2006.

This text is available free in digital form. It can be used on the PC or on an i-Pad or i-Phone. To obtain your free digital copy, first go to www.mystudybible.com. You will need to register as a user. Next, click on the "Store" link at the top of the page. At the bottom right side of the page is a field "Have a redemption code?" The unlock code for this title, **YGPWXCM1Q6**. To redeem the code, simply put in the code and hit enter. Once downloaded, the book will show up in the "Library" area under "Theology." This site also gives you access to multiple Bible translations and other study helps. There is no cost for this.

Dockery, David S., Ray Van Neste and Jerry Tidwell eds. *Southern Baptists, Evangelicals, and the Future of Denominationalism*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011.

Sullivan, James L. *Baptist Polity—As I See It*. Revised edition. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998.

Recommended texts:

Dockery, David S. *Southern Baptist: Consensus and Renewal*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008.

_____, ed. *Southern Baptist Identity: An Evangelical Denomination Faces the Future*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Norman, R. Stanton. *The Baptist Way: Distinctives of a Baptist Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005.

Wardin, Albert W. *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the U.S.A.* Atlanta: Baptist History and Heritage Society, 2007..

Requirements

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held in Columbus, OH, at the **Greater Columbus Convention Center, June 16-17, 2015**. (For information about registration,

hotels, etc., visit the website <http://www.sbc.net>. The seminar begins on Monday, June 15, 2015, with attendance at the Executive Committee Plenary Session at 2:00 p.m.

The **Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Program 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** and the Seminar Sessions. If you bring your spouse and/or family to the Convention, please make them aware that there will be limited family time during Monday – Wednesday 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.

A. Before the Seminar:

Textbook Readings and Reading Response: Students will read all of the **Required Textbooks** (Brand & Hankins, Dockery, and Sullivan) prior to the seminar. Each student will provide a **Reading Response Report** for **EACH** required textbook. **Please bring one (1) hard copy of the Textbook Responses to present at the first meeting of the seminar.**

The review should be 3-4 single-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:

- (1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
- (2) a brief biographical sketch of the author (one paragraph at most),
- (3) a brief summary (one to two pages) of the contents of the book,
- (4) a statement of the author’s purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized,
- (5) a description of the author’s writing style and biases,
- (6) five significant insights, strengths, and/or weaknesses,
- (7) five applications/implications for denominational issues, and
- (8) concluding evaluation.

Follow the CP Dollar Spreadsheet

Prepare a “Follow the CP Dollar” spreadsheet showing how your offering of \$100, contributed to your home congregation, is used in joint ministry through the Cooperative Program.

Section 1 will be a summary of your home congregation’s budget (1-page minimum). Use general categories (salaries, facilities) and subcategories (missions: CP, local, association) for clarity. List both the percentage of the budget and the dollar amount for each area (see shared folder). How much of your \$100 is forwarded through, or budgeted for, the Cooperative Program?

Section 2 will be a 1-page summary of your home state convention’s budget. List all the major areas where state CP dollars are spent. General categories and subcategories may be used for clarity. Include the percentage of CP dollars used by the state convention and what percentage are forward on to SBC ministries. Note the amount of your contribution used in each area.

Section 3 will be a 1-page summary of the SBC’s budget showing how the portion of CP giving forwarded to the SBC is allocated. Under “Theological Education Ministries,” note the percentages that each seminary will receive based upon the most recent SBC budget (the percentages vary from year to year). This will help you see how your home congregation used your tithe, how your home state uses your Cooperative Program dollar and how much of it eventually goes toward missions and to subsidizing your education.

***If you are not a Southern Baptist or are not attending a Southern Baptist church, use the budget from the church you are attending to complete page 1. Combine the amounts your church gives for church planting and international missions. Consider this amount to be the Cooperative Program portion, then use the Southern Baptist state convention where you live and the SBC budget to complete the assignment as if you were part of the SBC.

View the CP Information and PowerPoints: Students will be given access to a shared folder containing information about Cooperative Program, which they will review. Upon completion, students will email Dr. Harsch that they have completed the task. Be ready to integrate this information into classroom discussion.

B. During the Seminar:

SBC Committee Meetings and Press Conference: All students **MUST ATTEND** the following three meetings:

- **SBC Executive Committee Plenary Session (Monday, June 15, 2:00 p.m. location TBA)**
- **Presidential Press Conference (Tuesday, June 16, location and time TBA)**
- **Resolutions Committee Meeting (Wednesday, June 17, location and time TBA)**

As soon as arrangements are finalized, an email will be sent announcing the times and locations of these meetings.

Business Sessions: Students **MUST ATTEND** all business sessions of the SBC.

Seminar Sessions: In addition to the SBC meetings, students will attend and participate in two on-location **Seminar Sessions**.

- **Monday afternoon (June 15) immediately following the SBC Executive Committee Plenary Session, ending no later than 6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday afternoon (June 17), ending no later than 6:00 p.m.**

Locations will be announced when arrangements have been made. All students are required to be in attendance for the entirety of each session; **no exceptions**.

NOTE: Students must arrange travel plans to arrive in Columbus on Monday, June 15, in order to be present no later than 1:45 p.m. at the location of the Executive Committee Plenary Session. Students must plan departure from Columbus so as not to interfere with the ending of the seminar on Wednesday, June 17, 6:00 p.m.

C. Following the Seminar:

Summary and Reports: Students will complete and submit the following Summaries and Reports. The writing style is to be single-spaced, double-spacing between paragraphs, with no indent at the start of a paragraph, using one-inch margins. 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. First person will be allowed, but not overused for the summaries/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.). Attach 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. As an Addendum to the report, attach a list of the Resolutions 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 31, 2015. (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 length of the reflection project will be **10-12 pages, double-spaced**, and adhere to the form and style guidelines of Kate L. Turabian, 7th or 8th edition. 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. No first person permitted for this assignment. In the paper students will:

1. Briefly describe how this year's Convention functioned
2. Evaluate the challenges and opportunities which the Southern Baptist Convention currently has and will face in the future
3. Make recommendations on how you believe the Southern Baptist Convention could best meet these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities
4. Address any significant decisions, trends, and/or emerging issues which will impact the future of the SBC.

The reflection paper will be graded as follows:

Description of Convention	15%
Challenges and Opportunities	30%
Recommendations for the future	30%
Significant decisions, trends, issues	15%
Form and Grammar	10%

**Reflection Papers are to be mailed to Dr. Harsch, postmarked on or before July 31, 2015.
(NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126)**

Grading Policies:

- 30%: Textbook Reviews
- 30%: Summary/Reports
- 30%: Reflection Paper
- 10% CP Dollar Spreadsheet

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