



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

**THSE 8301 THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CONVENTION AND COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM AT WORK**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Professional Doctoral Special Event Seminar
Spring Trimester 2021 - Nashville, TN**

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Mission Statement

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

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 Textbooks

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

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, follow these steps:

1. Navigate in a browser to read.lifeway.com
2. If you do not have a Lifeway login, establish one with an email and password
3. Click on the “More” icon in the left hand navigation bar
4. Click on “Redeem Coupon” and enter the following code **TM1NUT5N6M**
5. Once downloaded, the book will show up in the “Library” area.
6. Click on “Library” in the left hand navigation bar to find the book and begin reading it.

This site also gives you access to multiple Bible translations and other study helps. There is no cost for this. A limited number of hard copies are also available free of charge in the Dean of Students Office.

Allen, Jason K. *The SBC and the 21st Century: Reflection, Renewal, & Recommitment*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2016. ISBN: 978-1433644399

Norman, R. Stanton. *The Baptist Way: Distinctives of a Baptist Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-8054-3152-0

Sullivan, James L. *Baptist Polity—As I See It*. Revised edition. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998. ISBN: 0-8054-0171-7

Recommended texts:

Dever, Mark and Jonathan Leeman, eds. *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2015. ISBN: 978-1433681042

Dockery, David S. *Southern Baptist: Consensus and Renewal*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008. ISBN: 978-0805447408

_____, ed. *Southern Baptist Identity: An Evangelical Denomination Faces the Future*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009. ISBN: 978-1433506796

Finke, Roger and Rodney Stark. *The Churching of America, 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy*. Second Edition, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005. ISBN: 978-0813535531

Wardin, Albert W. *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the U.S.A.* Atlanta: Baptist History and Heritage Society, 2007. Available at www.baptisthistory.org/books/twelvebaptisttribes.html. ISBN: 978-1578430383

Requirements

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held in **Nashville, TN**, at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, 2800 Opryland Dr., June 15-16, 2021**. (For information about registration, hotels, etc., visit the website <http://www.sbc.net>. **The seminar begins on Monday, June 14, 2021, with attendance at the Executive Committee Plenary Session at 10:00 a.m.** (Time subject to change).

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 and EC meetings and 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. In addition, students are to submit all post-seminar assignments in accordance with seminar deadlines. Students are required to have a Blackboard account.

A. Before the Seminar:

Book Reviews: Students will read the **Brand/Hankins** and **Norman** required textbooks prior to the seminar and write a **Book Review** for **EACH** book. Please submit your Reviews in the Assignment section in Blackboard, **due by 10:00 am on Monday, June 14, 2021**. The Reading Responses should be 3-4 single-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain:

- (1) use a title page, but a table of contents is not necessary,
- (2) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
- (3) a brief biographical sketch of the author (one paragraph at most),
- (4) a brief summary (one to two pages) of the contents of the book,
- (5) significant insights, strengths, and/or weaknesses (at least 2 each),
- (6) applications/implications for denominational issues (at least 2, no more than 5), and
- (7) concluding evaluation.

Textbook Synthesis: Students will **read both the Allen and Sullivan required textbooks** prior to the seminar and compose a brief **Synthesis Paper**, analyzing and evaluating the perspectives that each book brings in understanding the SBC. It is suggested that the books be read in sequence, with the Sullivan book first (the SBC up to the mid-1990s) and the Allen book second (the SBC in the 21st Century). Please submit your Textbook Synthesis in the Assignment section in Blackboard, **due by 10:00 am on Monday, June 14, 2021**. The Synthesis should be 4-5 single-spaced typewritten pages in length and should discuss **EQUALLY** the top four (4) **SBC Facts I Didn't Know** prior to reading these books and the top four (4) **SBC Surprises** regarding polity, organization, and/or process.

State Convention Comparison

Appendix B in *The SBC and the 21st Century* textbook provides the report from the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force (GCR) that was approved by SBC messengers in 2010. Each student will choose two (2) established state conventions and two (2) developing state conventions from the list below. If your home state convention is not listed, you may contact Dr. Harsch and request that it be included. Using data from these conventions, compare and evaluate the impact that the GCR has had on each of them. Explore the following issues:

- (1) identify the intended goals and purpose(s) of the GCR as it pertains to church planing,
- (2) have the goals and purposes been achieved?
- (3) what unintended consequences have there been?,
- (4) compare and contrast the impact on the various conventions,

Established Conventions

Alabama
 Florida
 Georgia
 Louisiana
 Mississippi
 Tennessee
 South Carolina

Developing Conventions

Michigan
 Minnesota-Wisconsin
 Montana
 Nevada
 New England
 Northwest
 Utah-Idaho

Submit your **State Convention Comparison** in the Assignment section in Blackboard, **due by 10:00 am on Monday, June 14, 2021**. The State Convention Comparison should be 3-4 single-spaced typewritten pages in length.

NOTE: Data from the State Conventions as well as CP can be obtained from the SBC Annuals, posted on the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives – http://www.sbhla.org/sbc_annuals. The Annuals can be downloaded by years. In addition to searching the data, students might consider calling the selected state conventions and speaking with the State Convention Executive Director, Associate Director, or the State Staff member in charge of Cooperative Program budget promotion.

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: All information about the Cooperative Program will be available on Blackboard. After reviewing the information and completing the assignment, submit the spreadsheet in Blackboard. Be ready to integrate this information into classroom discussion. **Due by 10:00 am on Monday, June 14, 2021.**

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 14, 10:00 a.m. location TBA, time subject to change)**
- **Dialogue with EC Personnel (Monday, June 14, location and time TBA)**
- **Presidential Press Conference (Tuesday, June 15, 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. Verification of these Business Sessions will be discussed at the Monday Seminar meeting. Students should have in their possession (either hard copy or electronic copy) the detailed schedule of the SBC.

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

- **Monday (June 14), immediately following the SBC Executive Committee Plenary Session, ending no later than 6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday afternoon (June 16), 2:00 - 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.

NOTE: Students must arrange travel plans to arrive in Nashville on Monday, June 14, in order to be present no later than 9:45 a.m. at the location of the Executive Committee Plenary Session. Students must plan departure from Nashville so as not to interfere with the ending of the seminar on Wednesday, June 16, 6:00 p.m.

C. Following the Seminar:

Summary and Report: Students will complete and submit the following Summary and Report, single-spaced, with headings/subheadings, pagination, margins, and title pages according to Turabian 8th Edition. 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 addressed, and reports presented. As a

part of this assignment, make a verbal presentation in either a regular church service or to a significant ministry group in the church (Church Council/Leadership Team, Staff meeting, Deacons meeting, etc.). Attach a summary of the meeting and subsequent responses as a supplement to the summary.

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.

Summary and Report are to be submitted in Blackboard by 11:59 pm, Central Time, July 23, 2021.

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, 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:

- Briefly describe how this year's Convention functioned
- Evaluate the challenges and opportunities which the Southern Baptist Convention currently has and will face in the future
- Make recommendations on how you believe the Southern Baptist Convention could best meet these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities
- 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 submitted in Blackboard by 11:59 pm, Central Time, July 23, 2021.

Grading Policies:

- 20%: Book Reviews
- 10% Textbook Synthesis
- 10% State Convention Comparison
- 10% CP Dollar Spreadsheet
- 20%: Summary/Report
- 30%: Reflection Paper

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. *Papers*: Late papers will be assessed an initial **10% penalty**, based upon the value of the late assignment. Each calendar day after the due date an **additional 10% penalty** will be assessed.
- 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

Papers should be posted in the appropriate area in the Assignments section in Blackboard. 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. Your paper **must** be posted in 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 (MS Works and .pages are 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 as email attachments to the professors.

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. For free help with format, writing style, and plagiarism concerns, contact the Writing Center at www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html.

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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