

Semester: Fall 2020
Day and Time: Mondays, 7:30-9:00 PM
Professor: Dr. Ben Birdsong
Email: ben@benbirdsong.com

Course: HT4742 Baptist Church History
Room: A202
Credits: 2
Phone: (205) 907-6623

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the origins and development of the Baptist Church with a particular emphasis on the formation of major Baptist denominations in America and their development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an overview of the history of the Baptist Church designed to help students to understand the story of the Baptist movement, explain the doctrinal distinctive of the Baptist tradition, and practice Baptist beliefs faithfully in today's church.

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the various positions regarding Baptist origins.
- Describe significant shaping events in Baptist history.
- Differentiate the various historical streams that compose the Baptist tradition.
- Defend the historical doctrinal understanding of Scripture in Baptist history.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

Bush, L. Russ and Tom J. Nettles. *Baptists and the Bible*. Revised and expanded ed.
Nashville: Broadman Press, 1999.

Chute, Anthony L., Nathan A. Finn, and Michael A. G. Haykin. *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015.

Kidd, Thomas S. And Barry Hankins. *Baptists in America: A History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Recommended Texts:

Early, Joseph, Jr. *Readings in Baptist History: Four Centuries of Selected Documents*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008.

Garrett, James Leo. *Baptist Theology*. Macon: Mercer University Press, 2009.

George, Timothy and David Dockery, eds. *Theologians of the Baptist Tradition*.

Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2001.

Lumpkin, W. L., ed. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1969.

Nettles, Tom. *The Baptists: Key People Involved in Forming a Baptist Identity*. Three volumes. Rossshire: Christian Focus, 2005 (vol 1), 2006 (vol 2), and 2007 (vol 3)

Nettles, Tom J. And Russell D. Moore, eds. *Why I Am a Baptist*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2001.

MacBeth, H. Leon. *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.

MacBeth, H. Leon. *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In preparation for class discussion, reading assignments should be completed before the class that they are noted on the syllabus. Certificate students are only responsible for reading assignments from *Baptists in America* and *The Baptist Story*.

Personal Spiritual Development Paper will be a 500-1,000-word personal reflection paper on the student's own personal faith journey and the role of denominational tradition in shaping his or her faith. The paper should explain the work of God, theology, and denominational tradition in the student's calling and faith journey up to the present. This paper will be discussed with the class on the first-class meeting and will be submitted to the professor at the conclusion of the first class.

Weekly Reading Quizzes will be noted on the syllabus. These will each be a quiz of 5-10 multiple-choice questions that cover the major themes from the assigned readings to be completed in preparation for the class. These quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class. All previous reading assignments that have not been quizzed may be included.

Book Critique of *Baptists and the Bible* by Bush and Nettles will be a 4-5-page paper. The critique should include: (1) a brief summary and overview of the main ideas of the book, (2) your major agreements and disagreements with the authors' ideas, (3) an interaction with the strengths and weaknesses of the book, and (4) a conclusion that describes how you perceive the effectiveness of this book as a resource. This critique should focus on not merely describing the books ideas but an interaction with the ideas in the book.

Baptist Distinctives Paper will be an interaction with two of the Baptist distinctive that the student selects. Each selected distinctive must be defended in 600-800 words (for a total paper of 1,200-1,600 words). Distinctives should be defended using the Bible. Papers should include a historical example for each distinctive selected as well as an explanation of the significance of the distinctive in Baptist thought as well as the distinctive's implications for the church today.

Biographical Presentation will be a creative and engaging oral presentation of 15-20 minutes explaining the significance of a figure in Baptist history from the list below (if you want to present a person not on this list, email the professor a proposal with the name and reason you want to study this person). An informative handout is required, and other visual aids are encouraged if they add to your presentation (multimedia presentation tools are great, but do not show video clips). On the back of the handout, provide a list of references you used in gathering information (list at least three reliable academic sources other than texts assigned for this class). Be prepared to field questions from the professor and other students at the end of the presentation.

NOTE: You should send a list of three subjects in order of your preference to the professor by email no later than October 19th. Requests will be granted on a first come, first serve basis, so earlier requests will receive preference. If you include a name not on the list below, include a brief explanation of the reason this person is worthy of a presentation in a Baptist History class.

Possible presentation subjects:

- John Smyth
- Thomas Helwys
- John Bunyan
- Roger Williams
- John Spilsbury
- William Kiffin
- Thomas Grantham
- Hanserd Knollys
- John Cotton
- John Clarke
- William Carey
- Charles Spurgeon
- John Clifford
- Benjamin Keach
- John Leland
- Isaac Backus
- Andrew Fuller
- A.H. Strong
- Harry Emerson Fosdick
- Richard Furman
- Shubal Sterns
- James P. Boyce
- Basil Manly

- John A. Broadus
- John Gill
- E.Y. Mullins
- Herschel Hobbs

Final Exam of multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions will be administered in order to gauge the student's level of comprehension of the material covered throughout this course in the readings, lectures, and presentations.

GRADING WEIGHT & COMMENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENT	GRADE WEIGHT	COMMENTS
Personal Spiritual Development Paper	10% of Grade	
Weekly Reading Quizzes	10% of Grade	The two lowest reading quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.
Book Critique of <i>Baptists and the Bible</i>	10% of Grade	Certificate students are exempt.
Baptist Distinctives Paper	20% of Grade	Certificate students are exempt.
Biographical Presentation	25% of Grade	
Final Exam	25% of Grade	

COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	AGENDA/TOPIC	DUE ON THIS DAY/DATE
Monday	9/14	Syllabus Review Role of Denominational Tradition in Personal Faith Development Baptist Identity and Beginnings General Baptist Origins Particular Baptist Origins	Personal Spiritual Development Paper Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 1)
Monday	9/21	Baptist Distinctives	Reading Quiz 1 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 13)
Monday	9/21	Particular Baptists in the Seventeenth Century English Baptists Particular Baptists American Baptists	Reading Quiz 2 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapters 2-3)

DAY	DATE	AGENDA/TOPIC	DUE ON THIS DAY/DATE
Monday	9/28	Particular Baptists in the Seventeenth Century	Reading Quiz 3 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 4) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapter 1)
Monday	10/5	Baptist Beginnings in America Triennial Convention The Great Awakening The American Revolution	Book Critique on <i>Baptists and the Bible</i> Reading Quiz 4 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 5) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapters 2-4)
Monday	10/12	Fall Break- No Class	
Monday	10/19	Periods of Decline and Revival in the 18th and 19th Centuries Northern Baptists Southern Baptists Landmarkism The Great Revival	Reading Quiz 5 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapters 6-7) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapter 5)
Monday	10/26	Baptists in the American South	Reading Quiz 6 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 8) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapters 6-7)
Monday	11/2	Formation of the Southern Baptist Convention National Baptists Baptist World Alliance	Baptist Distinctives Paper Reading Quiz 7 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 9) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapters 8-9)
Monday	11/9	The Southern Baptist Convention through 1925 Baptists and the Civil Rights Movement	Reading Quiz 8 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapters 10-11) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapters 10-11)
Monday	11/16	The Southern Baptist Convention since 1925 Baptists in 20th Century America	Reading Quiz 9 Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapters 12-13)
Monday	11/23	Presentations	Present Biographical Presentation
Monday	11/30	Baptists Around the World	Reading Quiz 10 Reading (Chute, Finn, and Haykin, Chapter 12) Reading (Kidd and Hankins, Chapter 14)

DAY	DATE	AGENDA/TOPIC	DUE ON THIS DAY/DATE
Monday	12/7	Final Exam	

BTS FORMAT, STYLE, AND WRITING STANDARDS

ATTENDANCE POLICY

CLASS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Electronic devices are allowed, but they should only be used for course purposes. All papers and written assignments must be submitted via email by 11:59 PM on the due date. Late assignments will incur a -3 point deduction per day after the due date, except in cases of emergency communicated to the professor.

ANNOTATED SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baker, Robert A. *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People 1607-1972*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1974. This is an older work, yet it dives deeper into the history of the Southern Baptist Convention from its beginnings to 1972.
- Bush, L. Russ and Tom J. Nettles. *Baptists and the Bible*. Revised and expanded ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1999. A work that clearly defines how Baptists use the Bible to define their beliefs and practices.
- Chute, Anthony L., Nathan A. Finn, and Michael A. G. Haykin. *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015. This is a recently-written history of the Baptists that helps to make the historical events come alive in a clear way and also explores the implications of Baptist history on today's church.
- Early, Joseph, Jr. *Readings in Baptist History: Four Centuries of Selected Documents*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2008. A great collection of selected texts from Baptist history.
- Garrett, James Leo. *Baptist Theology*. Macon: Mercer University Press, 2009. A clear work on Baptist theology that helps define the reasons why Baptists believe what they do.
- George, Timothy and Denise George, eds. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville: B&H, 1996. This is a great collection of Baptist confessions, covenants, and catechisms spanning the breadth of Baptist history.
- George, Timothy and David Dockery, eds. *Theologians of the Baptist Tradition*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2001. George and Dockery provide short and helpful biographies of selected Baptist theologians.
- Kidd, Thomas S. And Barry Hankins. *Baptists in America: A History*. Oxford: Oxford University

Press, 2015. A current history book of the Baptists in America that makes the historical accounts come alive.

Lumpkin, W. L., ed. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1969. A book of Baptist theological confessions along with a commentary of each.

Nettles, Tom. *The Baptists: Key People Involved in Forming a Baptist Identity*. Three volumes. Rossshire: Christian Focus, 2005 (vol 1), 2006 (vol 2), and 2007 (vol 3). An extended work in Baptist history and the people who came to shape it.

Nettles, Tom J. And Russell D. Moore, eds. *Why I Am a Baptist*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2001. This is a collection of essays from different leaders in the Baptist church about why they believe in the theology, mission, and vision of the Baptist church.

MacBeth, H. Leon. *Men Who Made Missions*. Nashville, Broadman Press, 1968. MacBeth has gathered stories from broader church history of people who influenced missions and the missionary zeal of the Southern Baptist Convention.

MacBeth, H. Leon. *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990. This is a book of original sources for *The Baptist Heritage* that provides additional insight into the texts that MacBeth covers in his classic work.

MacBeth, H. Leon. *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987. In this classic work, MacBeth tells the story of the Baptists through four centuries of history.

Wallace, O. C. S. *What Baptists Believe*. Nashville: The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1934. A short book about basic Baptist beliefs compiled by the Southern Baptist Convention.

STUDENT SIGNATURE