

History of the Baptist Churches in the United States – ET 1063
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary – Summer 2017
Independent Study Course
Instructor: Roy Fuller, Ph.D.
Contact Information: royfuller01@gmail.com; cell: 502.296.2593

Catalog Description: This course will trace the emergence of the Baptist Churches in the United States. Special attention will be given to American Baptist Churches (USA), the National Baptist movement and the Southern Baptist Convention as denominational expressions of Baptist life. Students will be introduced to the “culture” of the Baptist tradition in order to understand its distinctive character today. Prerequisite: Faith Seeking Understanding

Course Requirements:

- A) If they do not already do so, students will attend a Baptist church or visit different Baptist churches for the duration of the course.
- B) Students will complete three papers as follows:
 - 1) Significant Baptist Biography – Research and report on a historical figure of importance to the broad Baptist heritage. Person may be “significant” at the international, national, regional, or local level. Look specifically at similarities and contrasts to other Baptists from your experience. Paper should be 8 pages in length. (25% of final grade) See additional information below. **Due**
 - 2) “My Baptist Heritage” paper: Examine your current association with Baptist life. Examine your congregation and its relationship to the Baptist movements studied in class. Investigate your own church’s history with historic and contemporary Baptist movements and controversies. Read documents, talk to people, and find your church’s “historian.” Write a 10 page paper examining how your personal Baptist life connects with: (1) the history of Baptists we are studying, (2) contemporary denominational structures, (3) historic and contemporary controversies, and (4) your own life of piety. Be sure to think critically about these issues, but include also what nurtures you, what challenges you, what your hopes are for the future. (30% of final grade)
 - 3) Baptist Doctrine paper: In approximately 20 pages, explore a central doctrine of Baptist life using biblical texts, Baptist interpretations, Baptist history and confessions of faith, and the teaching of your own church. Topics will be assigned/negotiated with the instructor based upon the students background. (40% of final grade) See additional information below. **Due date TBD.**
- C) Students will connect via email (respond to an email chain) on a weekly basis. The email will be started by the instructor and will contain an initial prompt to which students will respond. In general terms, students will be asked to feature the most significant concepts/ideas they have encountered in the course of that week’s readings or their research. They will also respond to at least one other student’s response on a weekly basis. (5% of final grade)
- D) Students will maintain regular contact with the professor. This includes timely responses to emails and other requests for feedback.

Required Texts:

- Bebbington, D. W. (2010). *Baptists Through the Centuries: A History of a Global People*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press. ISBN 9781602582040
- Brackney, W. H. (2006). *Baptists in North America*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. ISBN 9781405118644
- Garrett, J. L. (2009). *Baptist Theology: A Four Century Study*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press. ISBN 9780881461299
- Freeman, C. W., J. McClendon, & C. R. Ewell, (1999). *Baptist Roots: A Reader in the Theology of a Christian People*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. ISBN 9780817012816
- McKinney, L. A. (2003). *Total Praise: An Orientation to Black Baptist Belief and Worship*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. ISBN 0817014381

Schedule of Readings and Due Dates for Written Assignments

Week 1: June 12 - 16 Beginnings: Continental and English

Readings:

- Bebbington, D. W. (2010). *Baptists Through the Centuries: A History of a Global People*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press. (pp. 1-63)
- Garrett, J. L. (2009). *Baptist Theology: A Four Century Study*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press. (pp. 1-34).
- Freeman, C. W., J. McClendon, & C. R. Ewell, (1999). *Baptist Roots: A Reader in the Theology of a Christian People*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. (pp. 1-31, 42-49, 71-87, 98-106).

Week 2: June 19 - 23 Coming to America and Finding Religious Liberty

Readings:

- Brackney, W. H. (2006). *Baptists in North America*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (pp 1-43)
- Freeman, 113-177
- Bebbington, 197-214

Significant Baptist Biography Paper Due – June 23

Week 3: June 26 - 30 Theological Divisions and Polarization

Readings:

- Bebbington, 83-120.
- Freeman, 181-200; 207-240
- Brackney, 44-75; 106-129
- Garrett, 109-151, 213-264

Week 4: July 3 - 7 Missions; Race; and African American Baptists

Readings:

- Bebbington, 121-156; 215-253, 255-286

Garrett, 153-212; 314-318; 581-585; 591-609
Brackney, 199-224
Freeman, 295-303, 379-403, 241-262, 340-361
McKinney, L. E. (2003). *Total Praise! An Orientation to Black Baptist Belief and Worship*.
Valley Forge, PA. 52-108

“My Baptist Heritage” Paper Due – July 7

Week 5: July 10 – 14 Baptist Women and Contemporary Baptist Life:

Readings:

Bebbington, 157-175

Brackney, 225-260

Freeman, 201-206; 289-294, 315-320, 282-288; 310-314; 321-328; 335-339; 369-389

A special edition of the Baptist Women in Ministry can be accessed at the link below or the CAMS portal under Course Documents.

<http://www.bwim.info/files/State%20of%20Women%20in%20Baptist%20Life%202010.pdf>

Baptist Doctrine Paper Due – July 14

Class Policies

Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the schedule of sessions, assignments and examinations. Students will be informed in advance via email of any changes.

Grading Information

1) Grading scale: For examinations and written assignments are as follows:

A = 100-97 B+ = 92-90 C+ = 84-82 D = 76-66

A- = 96-93 B = 89-87 C = 81-79 F = 65 and below

B- = 86-85 C- = 78-77

Use of Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible’s images for God. More discussion about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS web site with information for current students.

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another’s language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to

academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.

Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

The Chicago Manual of Style. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Late assignments

Late assignments will lose ½ grade per day without prior arrangement with professor. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day.

Incompletes

Incompletes will be granted only for serious personal or family illness or crises and must be negotiated prior to the last day of classes.

Guidelines for Significant Baptist Biography Paper

Assignment:

Significant Baptist Biography – Research and report on a historical figure of importance to the broad Baptist heritage. Person may be “significant” at the international, national, regional, or local level. Look specifically at similarities and contrasts to other Baptists from your experience. Paper should be 10 pages in length. (30%) Due

Expectations:

- 1) Student will identify and research a figure of historic significance from the broad Baptist tradition. While the paper is called a “biography,” due to the relatively short length, student should focus their paper on a specific period of this person’s life, or a distinctive contribution their subject made to the Baptist tradition. In other words, do not attempt to cover all aspects of the individual’s life you have selected, but **narrow your focus** to something which is manageable and can be sufficiently covered in 10 pages.
- 2) As much as is possible, primary sources should be used (and documented) in your paper. In the absence of primary sources, secondary sources will suffice. In some cases, primary sources may not exist or are not available. You should make use of several sources, with a minimum of 5 being expected. All papers submitted for grades must be written in Chicago or APA approved style and be double-spaced.
- 3) Where appropriate, effort should be made to place your subject into the broader context of Baptist tradition by noted the various factors which influenced their life and/or work; their contributions to Baptist thought and practice; and/or their impact upon the Baptist tradition.

Grading Standards:

Graduate students are expected to perform consistently and well in academic work. This will be evaluated in the following way:

- Basic mastery of the body of knowledge at a level expected in graduate study will earn scores in the B to B+ range.
- Grades of A- are granted for work which demonstrates
 - basic mastery of the body of knowledge, and
 - independent thought about the subject matter.
- Grades of A are granted for work which demonstrates
 - mastery of the required body of knowledge,
 - independent thought about the subject matter, and
 - creative/integrative use of the material, exceptional writing which integrates the material into a student’s own system of thought, and/or exceptionally well done or articulate research.

Guidelines for Baptist Doctrine Biography Paper

Assignment: (from the course syllabus)

*Baptist Doctrine paper: In 20 pages, explore a central doctrine of Baptist life using Baptist theological texts, Baptist history, the teaching of your own church, and Baptist confessions of faith. Be prepared to make a 45 minute presentation in class. Topics will be assigned/negotiated during the first week of class and presented to the class later in the semester. (40%) **Due date***

Paper Expectations: Student will research a doctrine or practice distinctive to historic Baptists. Paper should examine the relevant biblical texts and should engage Baptist theologians and historians whose work is relevant to the topic under investigation. Show that you are aware of how Baptists have agreed or disagreed through their history with regard to your specific doctrine/practice. How important has this particular doctrine/practice been with regard to Baptist identity in general? How significant is this doctrine or practice for your personal faith journey? All papers submitted for grades must be written in Chicago or APA approved style and be double-spaced.

Grading Standards:

Graduate students are expected to perform consistently and well in academic work. This will be evaluated in the following way:

- Basic mastery of the body of knowledge at a level expected in graduate study will earn scores in the B to B+ range.
- Grades of A- are granted for work which demonstrates
 - basic mastery of the body of knowledge, and
 - independent thought about the subject matter.
- Grades of A are granted for work which demonstrates
 - mastery of the required body of knowledge,
 - independent thought about the subject matter, and
 - creative/integrative use of the material, exceptional writing which integrates the material into a student's own system of thought, and/or exceptionally well done or articulate research.