

THCM2375 SOUTHERN BAPTIST LIFE
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to enhance the competency of the Christian/Theological Heritage. This course is designed to provide an overview of the history, structure, and activities of the Southern Baptist Convention. Included in the course will be a look at the current state of the convention, as well as the future prospects of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Course Objectives

In order to understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Comprehend Baptist beliefs and Baptist identity
2. Value a Southern Baptist Life and Ministry
3. Be able to apply the characteristics of Southern Baptist Life to local church ministry.

Professor's Philosophy

This professor believes education is a self-broadening process whereby the student's moral character, critical thinking skills, and base of knowledge are expanded resulting in greater fulfillment of the person's potential thereby increasing their usefulness within God's kingdom work.

Textbook

H. Leon Mc Beth, *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville; Broadman, 1987.

Course Methodology

This course will consist of readings, Power Point presentations, reflective questions, and video mini-lectures.

Course Requirements

1. Each week a new lesson will open. Each lesson will contain a reading assignment, Power Point outlines, a reflective question, and a video mini-lecture. Each student is to read and view the material every week. Each lesson will remain open for a period of two weeks. Students who fail to access the materials within the allotted time will not be given access to those materials after the lesson has closed.
2. Three examinations will be given during the semester (in weeks 5, 10, and 14). Each test will cover both materials from the PowerPoint and material taken from the readings. Each test will be open note, but the exams will be timed so you will need to study before beginning the exams. Each exam will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blank and multiple answer questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions). Each

of these exams will count for 20% of the semester average.

3. Each student is expected to read all of the assigned material, especially the textbook. Therefore, notes of the textbook reading should be recorded for all the assigned readings. During the final week (week 14), your textbook reading notes over each assigned section will be submitted to the professor via email. These notes may be outline in form, summarizations, or direct quotes taken from the books. The reading notes will compose 10% of the semester average.

4. Each student will write a 5 page, double spaced (Times Roman 12 point font) paper discussing his/her understanding of Baptist Identity. The paper will provide a discussion of those beliefs which the student believes are the most important for Baptists. The paper will contain at least one full page of text which provides reasons and defenses for why the writer is a Baptist (Non-Baptist students can consult the Professor as to their instructions). The paper is a personal reflection paper and thus should demonstrate thoughtful consideration and reflection upon one's own beliefs. The paper should thus be written in the first person. This paper will be graded for both its content and its form, which is to follow the guidelines outlined in the most recent edition of Turabian. **The paper will be due on ---.** Papers will be submitted via email to sdrumm@nobts.edu. The grade for the paper will be counted off 5 points for every day that the paper is late. The grade will compose 20% of the final semester grade.

5. Each student is expected to thoughtfully interact with the material addressed in each lesson. As a demonstration that such critical reflection has occurred, students will be required to respond to a reflection question as a part of each week's module. These responses should be a paragraph or so in length and should demonstrate an understanding of each week's material. While student's may respond to responses from classmates, such responses are not required. Furthermore, the grader or professor will typically not respond to these responses as they do not generally represent answers which are either right or wrong. These responses will compose 10% of the final grade.

6. The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Exam #1 20%

Exam #2 20%

Exam #3 20%

Reading Notes 10%

Reflective Responses 10%

Paper 20%

100%

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.