



Online Course Syllabus

THS 202 F1L1

Baptist History and Distinctives

Fall 2020 – 8/17 – 12/11

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Scott Shiffer

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Instructor Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM – M-F

Course Description and Prerequisites

An advanced study of the Anabaptists and their origins is followed by an examination of the emergence of the English Baptists and their subsequent history. A discussion of the history of Baptists in the U.S. emphasizing Southern Baptists. Stress is placed on the distinctive beliefs of Baptists within the context of the broader reformation heritage.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the student should have the ability to:

1. Articulate a working knowledge of the significant phases, events, persons, terms, and concepts in Baptist history and theology, with a particular focus on Southern Baptist distinctives.
2. Recognize how Baptist thought has been influenced by contemporary and antecedent forces.

Required Textbooks

- Garrett, James Leo. *Baptist Theology: A Four-Century Study*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2009.
- Blount, Douglas K. and Joseph D. Wooddell. *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000: Critical Issues in America's Largest Protestant Denomination*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Recommended Reading

- Armstrong, John H. *Understanding Four Views on Baptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Written Reflections	35%
Research Paper	15%.
Quizzes	10%
Final Exam	10%

Reading	10%
Class Discussion/Participation	20%
Total	100%.

Course Requirements in Detail:

Written Reflections: 35%

Written reflections will demonstrate critical thinking and reflection on the assigned questions each week. Questions will be intended to help students engage, critically evaluate, and compare assigned readings from the text and course material. Each reflection must be typed and submitted each week by the date indicated on the Course Schedule. Late reflections will be accepted, but there will be a 5-point penalty for each day they are past due. Reflections submitted over one week late will not be accepted. Each question must be answered in sentence format. As a general rule, 3-4 sentences will usually suffice as an acceptable answer length for any given question.

Reading Report: 10%

At the end of the semester, students will submit a report showing what percentage of the assigned readings the students completed from the text and the lecture notes. The report will be in the form of a multiple choice quiz and will include two questions. Students will select the percentage of reading that most closely reflects the amount they read 100%, 75%, 50%, or 25%.

Quizzes: 10%

The course will have seven quizzes corresponding to chapters in the textbooks. Each quiz will include questions from the assigned readings in the text as well as from content in the relevant lectures. The quizzes may be made up of matching, true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Students will have one week to complete each quiz. No late quizzes will be accepted.

Research Paper: 15%

Each student will write one Research Paper on a specific issue in Baptist History or on a specific Baptist theologian and his or her contributions to the Baptist denomination. The paper will include the synopsis of a issue, the Biblical argument for different views, and the student's own view of this issue. The student's view must be based on good quality research, Biblical support, and well reasoned argument. The paper will be 5-7 pages in length, written in Times New Roman font (12 pt.), and double-spaced. Page margins will be one-inch all the way around. The paper will need to include a Title Page and a Bibliography, which do not count toward the page limit.

Research Paper Grading Rubric:

Points	W (1) = Weak	D (3) = Developing	A (4) = Acceptable	E (5) = Exemplary
Ideas/Thesis (Does the Paper have a clear thesis statement? Does the paper do what it claims to do?)	No main topic to theme, no clear purpose, ideas are incoherent	Limited theme, confused purpose, ideas are illogical and do not progress	Clear theme, consistent purpose, ideas are clear and progress	Engaging and confident theme, clear and enriching purpose Reasoned progression of sophisticated ideas
Parts of a Paper (Does the paper have a clear introduction and conclusion? Are footnotes cited properly? Is there an appropriate cover page? Is the Bibliography correct?)	Few elements of formatting are correct, some are missing	Elements are present, but not clear, errors in formatting	Elements are present with few errors in formatting	Elements are present, clear, and free of errors
Organization (Is the paper well organized? Does it stay on Task? Are the writer's thoughts clear and easy to follow?)	Opening not present, no transitional phrases, no paragraph breaks, no closing	Opening does not identify main idea, attempted inappropriate transitions, paragraphs unrelated or illogical, closing does not address the main ideas	Opening identifies main ideas, transitions sometimes missing, paragraphs related with correct breaks, closing addresses main ideas	Opening draws reader into concern for main idea, ideas flow together, fascinating transitions, paragraphs purposeful and focused, fascinating closing synthesizing main ideas
Evaluation/ Evidence/ Claims (Are the claims made by the writer supported with good academic resources? Does the writer present enough evidence to prove his or her claims?)	No appropriate information presented, no attempt to evaluate information	Information presented with inaccuracies, attempts judgment based on opinion	Accurate and appropriate information, compare and contrast strengths and weaknesses	Detailed accurate and compelling, several perspectives with synthesis
Argumentation/ Analysis (Does the writer deal effectively with the	No attempt to argue position	Limited and weak attempt to argue position	Focused and clear argument	Engaging and compelling arguments

counterarguments? Does the writer analyze the evidence of the counterarguments as well as the arguments that support the thesis?)				
Application (How does the research apply to the topic at hand? How does the topic apply to the church or the life of the believer?)	No attempt to apply information	Limited ineffectual attempt at application	Common and expected application	Unexpected, insightful application
Grammar (Are there few grammatical mistakes? Are there any spelling mistakes?)	Frequent mechanical and grammatical errors	Occasional mechanical and grammatical errors	Few mechanical and grammatical errors	Very few mechanical and grammatical errors
Voice (How are you conveying your point?, Is the writing academic or conversational?)	Consistently inappropriate for genre, many variations in writer's attitude	Occasionally inappropriate for genre, a few variations in writer's attitude	Voice is consistently appropriate for genre, very rare variations in writer's attitude	Perfectly and creatively tailored, perfectly tailored attitude
Vocabulary (Word Choice)	Careless, inappropriate, inaccurate, trite, vague, flat	Unvaried, unsure, common, redundant	Varied and appropriate, clear meaning	Purposeful, precise, effective and engaging, interesting and brilliance in meaning
Fluency/Sentence Structure (Are the sentences complete as opposed to fragmented? Is the format of the paper consistent? Is there a title page, a table of contents, and a bibliography? Is the paper typed in Times New Roman, Size 12 font, with 1 inch margins on the sides and 1 inch margins on the top and bottom? Are the pages numbered?)	Frequent run-ons and fragments, no variety, many misplaced and dangling modifiers	Some run-ons and fragments, little variety, some lack of agreement, some misplaced and dangling modifiers	Simple compound sentences, no run-ons or fragments, few misplaced and dangling modifiers	Varied and complex sentences, fluent transitions, no misplaced and dangling modifiers

Total Points:				
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Final Exam: 10%

For the exam, questions will be asked from the readings in the text as well as from content in the online lectures. Students will have one week to complete the exam; no late exams will be accepted.

Class Participation/Class Discussion: 20%

In order to receive full credit for class participation every week, each student must respond to the professor's Class Discussion question for that week by Wednesday at 11:55 P.M. of that week. Next, the student must respond to at least two other students' posts by Friday at 11:55 P.M. of that same week. Finally, the student must answer any questions that are asked of him/her by other students by Sunday at 11:55 P.M. in your time zone at the end of that week. Please be courteous to other classmates by not waiting until the last minute each week to post on the Discussion Board. There are a total of 11 required class discussions.

Additional Discussion Board Guidelines (Maria Puzziferro):

An acceptable post to the Discussion Board would contain accurate, original, and relevant comments. The comments should stimulate additional thought about the issue being discussed. A simple "I agree" or "I disagree" will not be counted as an adequate comment.

- Your postings should reflect a) facts, b) logical reasoning, c) be related to the topic, d) be written well (no spelling errors, etc.), and e) be on time. Try to avoid sharing your personal opinions if you cannot back them up with facts and/or statistics.
- You may certainly express your views and beliefs in the context of the discussion topic, but DO NOT use your views to attack others. Simply use your best judgment and treat others with respect. This will be important to bear in mind as we discuss very sensitive and controversial issues.
- Read the assigned chapters before you post your response to the question so that you can tie in the main ideas and facts in the readings to your postings.
- You will be evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of how you present your point of view. A quality message is well thought out, clearly presented, and well-formulated.
- When posting, be sure to present your thoughts and point of view in an unbiased way. You can and should cite evidence for your assertions where appropriate. Use your textbook, and other selected web resources as educational aids.
- Your postings should be clear, yet concise. Please do not feel as though you have to write a lot. Think quality over quantity.
- Please try to keep messages to one paragraph (150-200 words), if possible.

Once you have posted, check back frequently to see if anybody has responded to you.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. Such participation may include the following: completing quizzes or exams; emailing faculty or class members as part of an assignment;

discussion board posting or response; turning in an assignment; or other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. When unavoidable situations result in non-participation, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how participation affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether participation affects course grades.

Grading Scale

(Assigning grade definitions [i.e., above average, average, below average] is optional. Please delete the last column below if not assigning definitions. Additionally, delete these instructions when completing syllabus.)

			Grade Definitions (optional)
A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour	
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour	
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour	
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour	
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour	
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour	
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour	
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour	
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour	
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour	
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour	
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour	

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,

- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Identity Verification

Students enrolled in Distance Education courses are required to present a photo ID to verify their participation in each course at the beginning of the term. Confirmation will occur through live-streamed meetings, video assignments, scheduled video conference calls, and/or another online video medium the instructor assigns.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Distance Education

Students participating in courses through Distance Education, with or without live interaction, must complete the academic requirements for those courses with the integrity and commitment necessary to participate in and benefit from all of the exercises provided by the instructor for learning the subject matter of the course. Therefore, credit for Distance Education courses is the same as credit for courses taken on campus.

Course Outline/Calendar

The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change. Students will receive sufficient notice in the event of a schedule adjustment.

Session Dates	Course Content	Assignments	Due Dates
Session 1 8/17	Course Syllabus Lecture: Introducing the Baptists Garrett: Chapter 1 – Baptist Roots	* Quiz 1 * Discussion 1	8/22

Session 2 8/23	Lecture: 16 th Century Garrett: Chapter 2 – General Baptists	* Discussion 2 * Written Reflection 1	8/30
Session 3 8/31	Lecture: 17 th Century Garrett: Chapter 3 – Particular Baptists	* Quiz 2 * Written Reflection 2	9/6
Session 4 9/7	Lecture: American Baptists Garrett: Chapter 4	* Discussion 3 * Written Reflection 3	9/13
Session 5 9/14	Lecture: 18 th Century Garrett: Chapter 5 – Missionary Baptists	* Written Reflection 4 * Discussion 4	9/20
Session 6 9/21	Lecture: 19 th Century Garrett: Chapter 6 – Landmarkism	* Written Reflection 5 * Discussion 5	9/27
Session 7 9/28	Lecture: 19 th Century Garrett: Chapter 7 – Baptist Controversies	* Written Reflection 6	10/4
Session 8 10/5	Lecture: 20 th Century Garrett: Chapter 8 – Baptist Theologians	* Written Reflection 7 * Discussion 6	10/11
Session 9 10/12	Lecture: The Southern Baptists Garrett: Chapter 9	* Quiz 5 * Discussion 7	10/18
Session 10 10/19	Lecture: Evangelicalism Garrett: Chapters 10	* Written Reflection 8	10/25
Session 11 10/26	Lecture: Incursions Garrett: Chapter 11	* Quiz 6 * Discussion 8	11/1
Session 12 11/2	Lecture: Missions, Ecumenism, and Globalization Garrett: Chapter 12	* Written Reflection 9 * Discussion 9	11/8
Session 13 11/9	Lecture: New Voices Garrett: Chapter 13 and Conclusion	* Written Reflection 10 * Discussion 10	11/15

Session 14 11/16	Lecture: Theology Proper & Soteriology Blount/Wooddell: Introduction Blount/Wooddell: Articles I-V	* Quiz 7	11/22
Fall Break – 11/23 – 11/29			
Session 15 11/30	Lecture: Ecclesiology & Eschatology Blount/Wooddell: Articles VI-XI	* Research Paper Due	12/6
Session 16 12/7	Lecture: Christian Living & Society Blount/Wooddell: Articles XII-XVIII	* Written Reflection 11 * Discussion 11 * Final Exam	12/11