Purpose of Course

Professional Christian leaders need to have a sure and settled foundation as to their understanding of the basic teachings of Christianity. Ecclesiology (doctrines related to the Church) is essentially what makes Baptists distinct from other evangelical groups. Baptists, however, share with other evangelical and orthodox Christians the basic tenets of Christianity. Clear formulation and articulation of such doctrines is foundational to an effective ministry. Non-Baptist students, as well, must have a similar foundation and convictions if they are going to function effectively as Christian leaders.

This course is designed to enable the (graduate) student to achieve the following goals:

1. By means of research to discover and delineate the distinctive theological teachings and scriptural bases of
   (a) his own denomination (with a heavy focus on Associational Baptists)
   (b) contemporary Biblical scholarship, and
2. To work out, on the basis of the various positions and arguments presented historically and in the Scriptures, a logical, theological position of his own.

To do this, we will study the Bible, confessions of faith, books, and articles written by churches, associations, and scholars. The professor will also bring lectures concerning the Biblical foundations for his own theological beliefs. Accordingly, doctrinal statements will be studied in their Biblical, theological, historical, and practical implications. Hopefully, all of us at the conclusion of the study will be stronger Christians and more cognizant of basic New Testament doctrines.

Requirements

Each student will:

1. Read at least 1,000 pages of collateral reading, including the books by Henderson and Lumpkin (25% of grade);

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1 Revisions of this syllabus will be placed on the seminary’s syllabi page/s on our web site: http://bmats.edu/syllabi/BRYAN/
2 This class meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00, in the Mt. Olive Room. Office hours are on Tuesday, 1:00 - 2:00, and by appointment at other times. The professor’s home telephone number is: 903-586-5920; cell is: 903-245-2505. The office number is: 903-586-2501. The email address is: philipbryan@bmats.edu
Updated versions of the syllabus may be found at http://bmats.edu/syllabi/BRYAN/

January 27, 2009
(2) Participate in class discussion, reflecting knowledge gleaned from weekly reading preparation (25%). USE OF CELL PHONES IN CLASS IS PROHIBITED. Absence will have an effect on your final grade. Seminary rules about absences, etc., will follow the stipulations given in the current BMATS Catalog, pp. 44-45:

Tardinesses or absences from class may result in a reduction of the final grade a student may receive in a particular course. A student who misses more than one-fourth of the classes for any course, without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the professor, will receive an automatic "F" for the course.

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Normally, for unexcused absence from a regularly appointed test, or examination, five points shall be deducted from the class grade for the semester. Three tardinesses are equivalent to one absence.

(3) Present two (OR MORE) reports to the members of the seminar, concerning two of the following: (a) an early Baptist confession of faith, (b) his own denomination's doctrinal statement, (c) current biblical scholarship, concerning ecclesiological, eschatological, and soteriological issues and doctrines (50%)

Students should provide all members of the seminar with detailed outlines of their presentations, i.e., reports (3-5 pp., single-spaced). Each report should be well-documented and include any pertinent bibliographical and/or biographical information. **Neatness is important; part of the evaluation of the reports will be based on proper form, spelling, etc.** Join the following link to get an article which gives detailed instructions and information about preparation of these reports: [http://bmats.edu/syllabi/BRYAN/reportaid.pdf](http://bmats.edu/syllabi/BRYAN/reportaid.pdf).

**Suggested Reading List**

Representative types of reading materials include:

A. **Associational Baptist Materials**

   P. R. Bryan, *"An Analysis of the Ecclesiology of Associational Baptists, 1900-1950."*
   _____, *"Another Look at Baptisma Eis Christon."*
   _____, *"A Critique of the English Separatist Descent Theory in Baptist Historiography."*
   E. H. Henderson, *Here's What We Believe.*

B. **Other Baptist Materials**

   S. E. Anderson, *Baptists Unshackled.*
   R. Brong, *Christ's Church and Baptism.*
   W. L. Lumpkin, *Baptist Confessions of Faith.*
   _____, *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage.*

C. **Biblical, Theological, and Historical Materials**

   __________

3 The articles by Bryan are found on his web page: [http://geocities.com/prbryan.geo/](http://geocities.com/prbryan.geo/)

4 See CD below.

D. Suggested CD with Many Valuable Histories


Format

The format this semester will be structured along the lines of a seminar. The class will meet fifteen times during the semester. Two of the sessions will be allotted for research in the library. Assigned readings in the textbooks, various reports by students, and lectures by the professor will provide the bases for class discussion.

Assignments

Day   Wk.

1/27  1. Introduction of Course
      Assignment of Topics and Suggested Collateral Reading
2/3   2. Lecture I. Concerning Theories of Baptist Origins – Professor
2/10  3. Lecture II. Concerning Theories of Baptist Origins – Professor
2/17  4. Lecture III. Concerning Baptist Ecclesiology (Church) – Professor
2/24  5. Lecture IV. Concerning Baptist Ecclesiology (Baptism) – Professor
3/3   6. Lecture V. Concerning Baptist Ecclesiology (Lord’s Supper) – Professor
3/10  7. Lecture VI. Concerning Baptist Ecclesiology (Other) – Professor
3/17  8. LIBRARY TIME
3/24  9. LIBRARY TIME
3/31 10. 1 Student Report Concerning *Origins of Black Baptist Churches* – Ballard
      2 Student Report Concerning *Origin of Lakeland Baptist* – Smith
4/7   11. 3 Student Report Concerning *Historical Practices of the Lord’s Supper* – Roadcap
      4 Student Report Concerning *History of Pentecostal Churches* – Anaab
4/14  12. 5 Student Report Concerning *Doctrines of Black Baptists* – Ballard
      6 Student Report Concerning *Comparison of BMA & Independent Baptists* – Smith
4/21  BMA of America & Spring Break
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| 4/28 | 7 Student Report Concerning *Liberty Baptist Association* – Roadcap  
8 Student Report Concerning *Doctrines of Pentecostal, Charismatic Churches*– Anaab |
| 5/5  | 14. Final Wrap Up  
Collateral Reading Report Slips Due |
| 5/12 | 15. END OF SEMESTER!! |

I am praying that this class will be a blessing to you and your ministry!!!