Course Syllabus

CH 421c
History of the Baptists

Spring 2015 Online
Developed Fall 2013

Professor: David Erickson, Ph.D.

Student Access to Professor
The Professor invites and encourages students to visit with him regarding their academic assignments or other life issues during the course. The professor’s hours are somewhat flexible to meet your scheduling requirements or individual needs.

- Primary contact with the professor will be accomplished via Moodle messages. How to Send a Moodle Message: 1) Click the participants section of the course; 2) Click on the instructor’s name; 3) Scroll to the bottom of the page; 4) Click on the “Send Message” button; 5) This will open a new small window in which you can type your message; 6) Click send message. The instructor will respond to your message via Moodle.

- Secondary contact (as a backup to primary contact) with the professor is through email: david.erickson@bmats.edu

- If you believe you need emergency contact, the professor’s work phone number is 903-586-2501 (Cell: 903-625-0132). The instructor contact time is Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time.

Delivery and Terms
This is NOT a self-paced course. The professor has assigned deadlines for specific assignments as shown in the assignment schedule. The class begins January 27, 2014 and ends on May 15, 2014.

Course Texts

Course Description
A survey of the ideas that have characterized Baptist churches from the establishment of Christianity to the modern age. Emphasis is given to the background of Baptists among Anabaptists and other dissenters, the emergence of Baptists in England and America, notable Baptist figures, and the theology, polity, and praxis of Baptists in America.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course the student should be able to:
1) Demonstrate knowledge of important individuals and movements in Baptist history.
2) Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts of the Baptist understanding of the church.
3) Organize and implement research in historical resources that will enable continued growth in the professional and academic study of historical theology.
4) Evaluate other Baptist theologians on a biblical, theological, and philosophical basis.
5) Organize and implement research within the field of church history for the purpose of spiritual growth and personal devotions.

Course Policies
Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Some student interactions will involve opinion which is neither right/wrong nor good/evil. My family values may be more/less socially open/closed than yours; my early life experiences may be different from yours; my denominational traditions may be distinct from yours; my journey in life may have taken a divergent path from yours. Be considerate in all responses to show discretion, regard, and courtesy.

Assignments Due: All assignments will be turned in to the instructor on the due date, before 11:55 p.m. Central Time. You may turn your completed work in earlier than the due date. You are expected to adhere to all deadlines without fail. Late work is automatically worth zero points. You have been informed of the various due dates well in advance and are expected to meet them regardless of personal impediments that may arise immediately before something is due. Deadlines are a fact of life. You can choose to plan ahead so that you meet them, or you can be content with the mediocrity of last-minute work. Either way, you still have to be on time. Contact the professor if there is an extreme, extraordinary emergency in your life. If the student and instructor agree there is an extreme, extraordinary circumstance, the work will be turned in no later than one class week from due date. Moodle has a time sensitive setting that will not allow work to be turned in after the deadline.

Grammar and Style: Major papers and book reviews are expected to employ proper English grammar and must conform to the standards in Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th ed. (on issues that Turabian does not address, consult The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed.). Papers that have more than three grammatical errors or more than two style errors may be returned to the student for correction. The student must then resubmit a grammatically sound and stylistically proper paper. The grade of the paper will be reduced 10 percentage points every day after their paper has been returned until an adequate paper is produced. Students are encouraged to consult with the professor before submitting their paper if they are concerned about it being returned.
Academic Honesty: The sanctity of truth is central to those who believe in a God who cannot lie and who forbids false witness. Academic honesty is the application in the academic world of the sanctity of truth. A student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student personally has done that work exclusively for that course. The student is asserting that the thoughts are the student's own original work unless credit is explicitly given to sources via citation. The student is asserting that the words written are the student’s own original work unless words are enclosed in quotation marks. Academic dishonesty is falling short of these standards. It includes, but is not limited to: cheating, submitting work which was prepared by another person, not giving credit on papers to sources, not quoting properly, and submitting without approval work originally prepared by the student for another course. Students found engaging in academic dishonesty will be subject to various disciplinary measures.

Lack of Engagement: Online courses are designed for the student to become engaged quickly, early, and to the maximum for the successful completion of the course. The instructor will follow the current Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Student Handbook (page 3) process of assigning the grade of “F” due to the student’s non-participation/engagement in the course.

Americans with Disabilities Act: BMA Seminary supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requiring accommodations for classes are responsible for contacting the Dean’s Office. This service is available to all students regardless of their location. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with federal and state laws though the Dean’s Office. Contact the Dean’s Office in person in the main administration building on the central campus or:

- by mail: P.O. Box 670, Jacksonville, TX 75766
- by phone: 800-259-5673
- by email: bmats@bmats.edu

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is dedicated to helping all students we serve to achieve their Christian, educational, and life goals.

Course Assignments

Please note for all assignments: Moodle will not allow you to submit work after the deadline date.

1. Forums
(13 discussions @25 points each) The student will have the opportunity to respond to discussion opportunities and questions each week. Discussion opportunities are to be returned via Moodle.

To receive full credit, each student must:
- have her/his name on all discussion threads.
- post a reply of at least 60 words to the discussion question (worth up to 15 points).
- post a reply of at least 30 words to another student’s post (worth up to 10 points).
- post responses that substantially contribute to the discussion of the material learned that week.
• formulate complete sentences using good English.
• be civil in responses.
• one reply to the question and one reply to another student’s answer are the minimal requirements, additional responses will receive additional points up to a maximum of 25 points.

NOTE: When you respond to the professor’s discussion starter, Moodle will not allow you to see other students’ responses for thirty minutes (this is the time period when you can still edit your post). You are encouraged to begin the assignment more than thirty minutes before it is due to compensate for this.

2. Reading Quizzes
(13 quizzes @25 points each) There will be quizzes based on the required readings for most weeks. Questions will come from the textbooks. All quizzes are open book and consist of objective questions. Quizzes are time-limited, in order to take a quiz effectively it is important to be familiar with the information before beginning the exam. You can take a quiz up to two times before it is due. There is a required delay between your first and second attempt. Your highest scoring quiz attempt will be counted for your grade.

4. Exams
(2 exams @150 points each) The mid-term and final exams will consist of essay questions. These should be answered with essays of at least one page in length that demonstrate the student’s mastery of the material and the ability to think critically and constructively about what has been learned. Both exams are open book. You have unlimited opportunities to take the exams until the time that they are due. The last exam submitted will be counted for your grade.

5. Biographies
There are two five (5) page double spaced biographical papers due during the semester. Biography 1 must cover a significant Baptist from the list found below, with particular attention given to his or her theological contributions and historical significance. This biography must reference a minimum of three scholarly sources and should also include original sources if possible. The biography must use footnotes that conform to the standards in Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th ed. The paper will be graded according to the rubric available on Moodle. Biography 2 must cover the life of an elderly or recently deceased Baptist individual who is significant to the student or a personal acquaintance of the student. The sources of the biography could include: interviews with the subject, spouse, children, fellow church members, ministers, and other relevant people; records from churches and associations; and newspaper articles collected in the biographical files maintained by Keller Library. These sources must be cited in footnotes that conform as much as possible to the standards in Turabian’s Manual.
Possible Subjects for Biography 1

John Smyth  
Isaac Backus  

Thomas Helwys  
Shubal Stearns  

Praisegod Barebone  
Richard Furman  

William Kiffin  
Francis Wayland  

Thomas Collier  
John Mason Peck  

Benjamin Keach  
Daniel Parker  

John Clarke  
James M. Pendleton  

William Screven  
Amos C. Dayton  

Dan Taylor  
Sallie R. Ford  

John Gill  
Johann Gerhard Oncken  

Abraham Booth  
Frederick O. Nilsson  

Andrew Fuller

6. Book Review
Submit a book review on *Old Landmarkism: What is It?*. A book review is five (5) pages, double-spaced, and includes: a brief introduction (1 page or less), a summary of the book’s contents (3 pages), critical reflection on the book (1-2 pages), and a brief conclusion (1 paragraph). A book review should include full bibliographic information for the book under review at the top of the first page. Quotations from or references to the book being reviewed should be noted with parenthetical page citations. For an example of the proper format, see the sample book review on Moodle. The book review will be graded according to the rubric available on Moodle.

7. History of a Baptist Convention or Association:
Write a six to eight (6-8) page double-spaced history of a national Baptist convention or association. The history should cover at least the following points:

1. When and why it was founded
2. Distinctive theological beliefs of the association
3. Significant contributions or ministries of the convention
4. Current demographic status and geographic distribution of churches associated with the convention or association.

The history should be based on sound historical research as evidenced through footnotes and a bibliography. You are encouraged to use primary sources such as minutes and proceedings as well as secondary sources such as books describing the history of the convention or association.

A non-exhaustive list of possible conventions or associations for study:

- Baptist Missionary Association of America
- American Baptist Association
- Southern Baptist Convention
- Baptist Bible Fellowship
- American Baptist Churches USA
- General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
- Baptist General Conference
- National Baptist Convention USA Inc.
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
Course Grades:
There are seven parts to student grades in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points each</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forums</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>150</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>Biographies</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association History</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>1350 points</td>
<td>100%</td>
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The seminary’s standardized grading scale will be followed in assigning final grades:

- A 91-100%
- B 81-90%
- C 71-80%
- D 61-70%
- F 0-61%

There are two extra credit opportunities during the course.

COURSE CONTRACT: By continuing with the course, you certify that you:
- have thoroughly read the syllabus and all relevant orientation information.
- understand that this course has a fixed start and end date.
- understand the delivery mode of this course is not self-paced.
- understand that this is not a watered-down course—you can expect to spend more time reading, writing, and studying in this class than if you were taking this course in a classroom.
- agree to submit your assignments electronically or as instructed by your instructor within the accepted timeframe.
- are the student officially enrolled in this course and you are actually performing your own work.
- agree to the course conditions and requirements, especially the provisions of academic honesty and personal integrity in an online course.

Failing to fulfill the course contract will result in failure of the course and other appropriate disciplinary actions, if necessary.
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<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Value</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Date Available on Moodle</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz (Extra Credit)</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
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<td>McBeth 21-63, 123-152</td>
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<td>McBeth 64-122</td>
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<td>McBeth 153-199</td>
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<td>McBeth 200-283</td>
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<td>McBeth 343-391</td>
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<td>25 25 100</td>
<td>McBeth 392-447, 464-494</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
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<td>Forum Reading Quiz 8</td>
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<td>McBeth 776-790 “Beyond One Man” “Israel Campbell” “The Withdrawal of Blacks from Southern Baptist Churches Following Emancipation”</td>
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<td>McBeth 563-578 “J. Frank Norris: Rascal or Reformer?”</td>
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<td>McBeth 702-776</td>
<td>April 16</td>
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