

MIN 1123

Baptist History

A Syllabus

Course Description: A survey of Baptist history from its beginnings in the seventeenth century to the present. Attention will be given to the personalities, major developments, beliefs, key documents and major controversies involving Baptists.

Textbook: Bill J. Leonard, *Baptist Ways: A History*, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: Judson Press, 2003.

Attendance Requirements: Students must be present for 75% of the class meetings to receive credit from East Texas Baptist University. The professor may arrange for make-up sessions.

East Texas Baptist University Resource Personnel:

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES—BASIC COMPETENCIES:

This course is a study of the founding, establishment, expansion and leadership of the people known as Baptists. The overall purpose of the course is to assist students in preparing for ministry in a local Baptist church related to the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention and/or any other group of Baptist believers. The student successfully completing the course MIN 1123 Baptist History will be able to:

1. understand the origin, beginnings and development of Baptists.
2. describe the development of the main streams of Baptist life from England to the American colonies, to the Southern states, and westward to Texas and beyond.
3. identify significant people, events, beliefs and trends in various periods of Baptist History.
4. communicate the historical background of various groups, institutions and movements that continue in Baptist life.
5. identify the bibliography and historical resources available for the study of Baptist History.
6. understand the variety of expressions, experiences and beliefs within the Baptist faith in an historical framework.
7. identify the primary documents, major movements and key leaders in the historical development of Baptists, particularly as those items pertain to the local Baptist Church, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention and other Baptist bodies.
8. develop a deeper interest in, understanding of, and involvement in historical and theological research associated with Baptists.
9. better understand one's personal Christian experience and background as a Baptist.
10. research and write on topics, ideas and leaders associated with Baptists.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES:

1. **Teaching Methodology** will include the following:
 - (1) Lectures: Presentations and materials associated with the course outline as presented.
 - (2) Discussions: The professor will facilitate discussion of various topics related to the course outline and topics in Baptist History.
 - (3) Reading: The class will need to read the textbook assignments and related materials on Baptist History. The instructor will give assigned readings and materials to students.
2. **Assignments** will be given in preparation for each class. Class time will be devoted to discussion, instructor presentations and further explanation of the assigned topic or topics.
3. Three short, **mid-term quizzes** will be given covering the course material to the time of the quiz. A final, comprehensive written examination covering the entire course will be given in the last class session. These short quizzes will be graded in class and will serve as review and preparation for the Final Comprehensive Examination.
4. Each student will be required to prepare a **four to six page report** on a topic selected by the student in consultation with the professor. The topic can be selected from the textbook or other sources the student finds interesting. A list of topics is included in the Student Packet along with the initial Research Project Report form. [Example topics: Roger Williams' Dissent (personal experience, passage to the American colonies, difference with religious leadership, dissent from the Massachusetts religious authority, experience in the wilderness, belief regarding the Native Americans, establishment of Rhode Island colony); John Smyth, Thomas Helwys, William Kiffin, John Gill, Roger Williams, Obadiah Holmes, First Seventh Day Baptist Church, John Bunyan, John Clarke, First Great Awakening and Baptists, Baptists and the American Revolution, Baptists and Slavery, Second Great Awakening and Baptists, Founding of the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptists and the Civil War, The Association in Baptist Life, Philadelphia Association, , Isaac Backus, George Leile, Andrew Fuller, Luther Rice, Adoniram Judson, Ann Hasseltine (Judson), John Mason Peck, James E. Welch, Daniel Parker, New Hampshire Confession of Faith, Baptist Confessions of Faith, etc.]
5. **NOTE:** Some chapters in the textbook will not be covered in detail in the course. A student may select one or more of these chapters to present a written summary as an alternative for the written report. The student should follow the same guidelines in preparing this summary as would be followed in presenting the written research report.
6. Report topics should be selected by the second class session, and the written research project reports will be due by the fourth class session.

Grading:

- (1) Participation/Discussion/Demeanor in class will count as 100 points
- (2) The Three Mid-Term quizzes will count as 100 points each. The quizzes (composed by the faculty on the main campus) will be administered and evaluated locally. The potential content of the quizzes is suggested by the faculty on the main campus, but the ultimate choice of the questions and content to be covered will be that of the local faculty conducting the class.

- (3) The student is encouraged to keep notes in a Notebook/File/Portfolio. The NFP will be considered if the student desires as an extra credit project to be evaluated by the professor in addition to the tests and the written research report.
- (4) The written research report on a relevant topic in Baptist History will constitute 100 points. The local instructor/professor will evaluate the report and with the quiz and final examination grade calculate the final grade for the course.
- (5) The Comprehensive Final Examination will be worth 100 points.

Grading Categories:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

MINS 1123 Baptist History – Course Outline – Class Meetings & Study Topics

DATE	LESSONS	SUBJECTS	ASSIGNMENT
	Class #1	Baptist History and Baptist Beginnings	Chapters 1-3
	1.	Introduction—Course Overview, What is history? What is a Baptist?	
	2.	Baptist Beginnings	
	3.	General and Particular Baptists: Baptist Beginnings in England	
	Class #2	Baptist Beginnings in America	Chapters 4-7
	4.	Quiz #1 (Leonard, Chs. 1-3) Baptists in Early America – New England	
	5.	Baptists in Early America – South & Middle Colonies	
	6.	Baptist Missions in England and America	
	Class #3	Baptists in America, 1800-1900	Chapters 8-9
	7.	Quiz #2 (Leonard, Chs. 4-7) Baptists on the Frontier: Types & Relationships	
	8.	Birth of the Southern Baptist Convention	
	9.	Landmark Controversy	
	10.	Southern Baptist Education	

	11.	Sunday School, Southern Baptist Missions, and the Women's Missionary Union	
	Class #4	Baptists in the Twentieth Century: World-wide	Chapters 10-15
	12.	Quiz #3 (Leonard, Chs. 8-9) Scan Chapters, Key Points, Ideas & Leaders Research Project Report Due	
	Class #5	Baptists in the Twentieth Century: United States	Chapter 16, Epilogue
	13.	Fundamentalism and SBC Controversies	
	14.	Foundations & Strategies for the Future Summary & Review	
	15.	Final Comprehensive Examination	