

Baptist History

RL 3163 A/HT 3163 A

Instructor

Robert Lee Foster, PhD

Contact Points

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Course Website

<http://tinyurl.com/rfoster>

Office Hours

Maddox Center 106

Specific office hours are posted on my door but I am generally in my office from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Communication

Students will provide an e-mail address to the professor. This address will be used to make contact with students as need arises related to course work, attendance, etc. Students are responsible to check their e-mail accounts for this information between each class. If you need to contact me, please do so personally or use one of the contact points mentioned above.

Course Overview

An examination of the history and heritage of the Baptist denomination from the English Baptists of the early seventeenth century to the creation and development of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Course Objectives

The following objectives will serve as a summary of the content of the course. The learning activities which are discussed in this syllabus will measure the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, these objectives are intended to assist students in accomplishing the “Institutional Academic Goals” of Williams Baptist College (Catalog).

1. The student will describe the historical situation of 17th century England which brought about the various puritan and separatists movements.
2. The student will describe the primary theories of Baptist origins and the historical milieu in which these theories originated.
3. The student will demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the major tenets of Baptist polity and theology in order to be able to critique its strengths and weaknesses.
4. The student will understand the development of Baptist identity in the history of the colonial and republic periods of the United States of America.
5. The student will understand the specific context for the establishment of the Southern Baptist Convention.
6. The student will be able to describe the role Baptists have played in the modern missions movement.
7. The student will understand the contributions of American Baptist traditions including those known as Charleston, Sandy Creek, Georgia, Landmarkist, and Texas.
8. The student will be able to discuss the major differences in Baptist groups of today.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected and required to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in this and all courses. Students should be familiar with the college’s “Academic Honesty Policy” (catalog). Students requiring any clarification of these policies should consult their academic advisor or the Office of Academic Affairs.

Required Texts

A modern translation of the Bible such as NKJV, NASB, ESV, NRSV, etc.

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

McBeth, H. Leon. *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. Nashville: Broadman, 1990.

Learning Activities

Note Bene

Turning in an assignment is no guarantee of receiving full point value. Only assignments done in a professional, error-free manner with excellence in thought and organization will receive full point value.

Late Assignments

Assignments and exams may be accepted late if submitted in a reasonable amount of time, except where otherwise noted. The grade received on any assignment turned in after the due date will be reduced by 10% for each class session it is late.

Class Attendance (25 points)

Students are expected to attend every class session. Class begins at the appointed time.

Students who miss one week's worth of class will be notified by the professor. Absences equal to two weeks of classes may result in removal from the class. No excused absences are allowed. Students who are involved in college required activities such as Williams Singers, Cast, Athletic Competitions, etc. will not be counted absent when the student submits a note (e-mail is acceptable) to the professor including the date and reason for the absence. These notes should be submitted within one week of the absence, preferably prior to the absence. Please see the current Academic College Catalog for additional information.

Students will lose 10 points from their Attendance and Participation grade for each absence beginning with their second absence. Students will lose 5 points for any late arrivals or early departures beginning with their second late arrival or early departure. If a student loses 20 points because of late arrivals, they will be required to meet with the professor. If a student loses more than 25 points, the additional forfeiture will be subtracted from her/his total points in the class.

Research Paper (100 points)

Each student will write a 10 to 12 page research paper on a key figure or event in Baptist history or discuss the historical development of a specific Baptist doctrine. Topics must be approved by the professor before work begins. Students will submit a topic request which will consist of a paragraph on the question, issue, event, person, or doctrine that will be addressed in their paper. This request will also include three proposed resources (not including the textbooks for the course). Final papers must use at least ten resources. All papers will conform to the *Manual of Form and Style*. A grading rubric for this project can be found on the class website. Further instructions for this project will be given during the first weeks of the class. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. Papers will be submitted in written format and in electronic format on Turnitin.com.

Baptist History Notebook (150 points)

Each student will compile a notebook. Each chapter which is to be read and discussed in class has a corresponding worksheet located on the class's online classroom. Students should print these worksheets and complete them. These worksheets will be kept in a pocket folder. They will be gathered occasionally and graded for completion. Please see nota bene above.

Exams (100 points each, 200 total points)

Exams will cover both the lecture and reading material. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Final Course Grade

Accuracy of Grades

All grades for the class are kept in the online grade book. Students should routinely check their grades. Any questions about the grades should be directed to the professor by the last day of class. All grades for the course (except the final exam) will be considered final the last day of class. The final exam grade will be considered final if the student does not contact the professor within one week of the posting of the grade. This procedure is intended to involve the student in the accuracy of their grades in a timely manner.

Grading Scale

Class Attendance	25	A	93-100 %
Paper	100	B	83-92.9 %
Notebook	150	C	73-82.9 %
Exams	200	D	63-72.9 %
		F	0-62.9 %

TOTAL POINTS: 475

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the professor of any medically documented disabling condition that will require modifications to avoid discrimination. All requests for special accommodations must be approved in consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. Reasonable accommodations will be jointly developed between student and professor after consultation with the Director of Counseling Services. The student is responsible to initiate any request for accommodations in advance of their need. Documentation will be required.

Course Schedule

BH = *The Baptist Heritage*

SB = *A Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*

DATE	LECTURE	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
August 24	Introduction to the Course	Handout, Dr. Bob Agee, "Comment: Baptist Education Theology--The Search Continues"	
29	1. Baptist Beginnings	BH 21-63	
31		SB 1.1, 5	
September 5	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS	
7	2. Defining the Faith	BH 64-98	Notebooks Due
12		SB 2.1, 4	
14	3. Defending the Faith	BH 99-122 3.1-2	
19	4. Baptist Beginnings in America	BH 123-152	Research Topics Due
21		SB 4.2, 4, 8	
26	5. General Baptists in England	BH 153-170	
28		SB 5.3, 4	
October 3	6. Particular Baptist in England	BH 171-199	
5		SB 6.2, 4, 5.B, 6	
10	7. Revival Fires: Baptists in America	BH 200-251	
12		SB 7.4, 11, 13, 14	
17	FALL BREAK	NO CLASS	
19			Mid Term Exam
24	8. Baptists in Colonial America: The Struggle for Religious Liberty	BH 252-287	Notebooks Due
26		SB 8.2-4	
31	9. Baptists in Greater Britain	BH 289-342 SB 9.6-7	

November	10. United for Mission: Baptists in America 1800-1845	BH 343-391	
2			
7			Research Papers Due
9		SB 10.3, 13.B, 17, 18, 19.C	
14	11. Going Separate Ways: Baptist in America 1845-1900	BH 392-463	
16		SB 11.9, 13, 14, 17	
21	14. Northern Baptists	BH 563-608	
23	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class		
28		SB 14.8-12	
30	15. Southern Baptists	BH 609-701	
December		SB 15.5, 13	Notebooks Due
5			
7	Review		
			Final Exam