



**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A survey of New Testament Christianity from the time of the apostles to the present. This includes the development of New Testament forms of Christianity with a special treatment of the Anabaptist and modern Baptist movements. (3 credit hours)

**COURSE TEXTBOOK:** McBeth, H. Leon. *The Baptist Heritage – Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. Nashville, Broadman Press, 1987. ISBN 978-0-8054-6569-3.

### **COURSE GOALS**

1. To gain an understanding of the history of the back-to-the-Bible people who have been committed to New Testament principles of faith and practice throughout church history
2. To understand and appreciate the groups in church history who have held to the principles of New Testament Christianity and have often suffered for their commitments
3. To understand the major issues in Baptist history:
  - a. The problem of the “Landmark” movement that developed and insisted on a traceable succession and visible historical link between the back-to-the-Bible movements that have existed throughout the centuries
  - b. The problem of Baptist origins. Do Baptists trace their origins to the New Testament times or can they only claim a history since the mid-seventeenth century?
4. To trace the development of the Baptist testimony in Great Britain, Europe, the United States, and around the world since the middle of the seventeenth century

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. You will read literature that covers the scope of Baptist history.
2. You will study the origins, divisiveness, and impact of the Landmark movement.
3. You will interact with the two major philosophies of Baptist origins.
4. You will study the development of the Baptist testimony around the world and in the United States.

### **MBU INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES SUPPORTED BY THIS COURSE**

1. Communication Skills – Students will demonstrate competence in written, oral, and aesthetic communication.
2. Critical Thinking – Students will apply a framework for logical decision-making in various contexts.
3. Historical & Cultural Understanding – Students will recognize and evaluate the ideas, trends, and cultures of various social groups.

4. Biblical Knowledge – Students will acquire skills related to biblical study methods, interpretation, and doctrine.
5. Biblical World View – Students will articulate a world view that will tie all fields of study to the Scriptures “to the Praise of His Glory.”
6. Baptist Heritage – Students will recall and identify the history, heritage, and distinctives of fundamental Baptists reflected in local churches.

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Read the textbook for the course. (McBeth, pages 19-822)
2. You will read additional material to total 1200 pages of graduate-level material in the field of Baptist History.
3. In most courses at Maranatha Baptist Seminary, the added reading is from a bibliography, and the student chooses the reading. In this course, a substantial portion of the reading will be in assigned resources so as to directly focus on specific issues in Baptist history.

These reading assignments will include the following:

- a. Armitage, Thomas. *A History of the Baptists*. 2 vols. New York: Bryan, Taylor & Col, 1890; reprint, Watertown, WI: Maranatha Baptist Press, 1976, Preface and Introduction, iii-xii, Introductory Chapter, 1-12. This material provides a good introduction to the three views of Baptist origins and details Armitage’s refutation of the Landmark position. The two volumes of Armitage’s work are part of the Roger Williams Collection, published digitally by Maranatha. They are available from Logos.com.
  - b. Pickering, Ernest, with Myron Houghton. *Biblical Separation – The Struggle for a Pure Church*. Schaumburg: Regular Baptist Press, 2008. Introduction, Chapters 1-3, pages 11-61. These chapters deal with the separatist movements in early church history and the Anabaptists.
  - c. Potter, David. *The Baptist Story*, 1-12. This is a good, concise overview of Baptist History.
  - d. Ross, Bob L. *Old Landmarkism and the Baptists*. Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1979, 1-168. This book was originally a series of magazine articles that Ross wrote in the 1960s. He later compiled them in book form. It is probably the best current work refuting the Landmark Baptist position. You do not have to read the entire book, but you should read some in it.
4. Read enough to total 1200 pages.
  5. Complete a Reading Report.

## RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Position Papers:** You will write three short papers outlining your position on the subjects of the early separatist groups, the Landmark issue, and Baptist origins. These will be due after our class lectures are complete. You may use the class notes, additional notes from classroom discussion, and any other reading you wish to do. In 3-5 pages, briefly state the issues involved and state your own personal position on these subjects.
2. You will write one **research paper**, 15+ pages in length, on a subject of your choice relating to Baptist history. Follow the standard Turabian/Vyhmeister format with footnotes and bibliography.
3. **Devotional Articles:** You will write two one-page devotionals on some aspect of Baptist history. You may write on a leading personality or on a specific event. These devotional articles are not academic, but devotional. They are not to exceed one page in length. A template for these devotional articles is in the Research Module.
4. Submitting research papers:
  - a. Submit to the class page.
  - b. Late papers will be penalized 4% per calendar day that they are late.

## TESTING

There will be a comprehensive final exam. It will primarily cover course lectures. It will be an open-book exam, taken online, and timed.

### GRADE COMPOSITION

Research Paper	25%
Three Issues Papers	20%
Final Exam	20%
Reading	15%
Participation	10%
Devotionals	10%

### GRADING SCALE

100-94 A	82-81 C+
93-92 A-	80-75 C
91-90 B+	74-73 C-
89-85 B	72-64 D
84-83 B-	63-0 F

### COURSE CALENDAR

Paper on Early Separatists	
Paper on Baptist Origins	
Paper on the Landmark Issue	
Research Paper Reading Report Devotionals	
Final Exam	

### SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

**Reading Report:** There is an Excel form in the Research Module which should be completed and submitted.

**All Other Assignments:** Submit the remainder of your assignments in the appropriate place on MyMaranatha. Please submit them in Microsoft Word format. Assignments submitted in PDF format will be returned for you to submit in Word.

### CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Come to class prepared to ask questions and participate in the discussions that develop. **Please do** bring your notebook computer or other electronic device. Use it to take notes and feel free to connect to the Internet. It is also highly likely that we will engage in some impromptu research on issues that arise.

**Please do not** use your computer, mobile phone, or other device to engage in personal interaction while class is in session.

### SEMINARY LATE ACADEMIC WORK POLICY

You are now studying at a graduate level; expectations are, therefore, high. The Seminary expects you to perform your academic work in a timely fashion. The development of time-management skills while in seminary will greatly benefit you in the future, both in your personal life and in your ministry. Ministry involves managing numerous activities at one time. You are preparing for a life ministry which will focus primarily on serving people. This demands a serious consideration of your own schedule and the schedules of those whom you serve. To encourage you in the development and strengthening of your time-management skills, the Seminary has established a Late Academic Work Policy. This policy is the minimum penalty for work not turned in on time. The professor may impose a greater penalty, but not a lesser. Work not turned in on the day it is due will have its grade reduced 4% for each calendar day it is late. The Seminary realizes that serious extenuating circumstances, such as a lengthy illness or a death in the family, may prevent some students from completing class projects on time. Requests for appropriate extensions for these types of serious circumstances may be made to the Seminary Academic Senate, via a written petition submitted to the seminary office.

## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER**

One source for academic help in any course is the Academic Success Center. If you require specific targeted academic help for any reason contact the Academic Success Center located in the Cedarholm Library. You can contact the Academic Success Center director at [academicsuccess@mbu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@mbu.edu).

## **THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

**The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the law requires that all students with disabilities be given a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Success Center director at [academicsuccess@mbu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@mbu.edu).