Catalogue description: A study examining various notion of Baptist identity by comparing how Baptists in different historical and cultural contexts have understood and lived out “Baptist Distinctives.”

Seminar description: The seminar will consist of three phases. First, participants will focus on surveys and interpretations of Baptist History in order to gain historical and historiographical perspective on the emergence of Baptist doctrinal and ecclesiological identity. Second, participants will focus on the development of Baptists in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America through the periodical literature or monographs. Third, each participant will present a research paper based on the primary source work done in the papers and monographs.

Subject Matter: The seminar focuses on three areas of Baptist theology: issues of authority, soteriology, and ecclesiology. If not presenting the outline of a monograph, the student will be ready with synopses of eight articles weekly in the designated subject areas. Also any scintillating and newsy items may be brought for edification and amusement. Any mention of Charles Spurgeon in the middle dates will be appreciated.

Procedure: The first week will consist of introductory matters and lecture on the general subject area. The next two weeks each student will read, report, and present a synopsis of a selected survey of Baptist development, with two students reporting each week. The student responsible for presentation will lead a discussion of the book assigned and distribute a 4 page synopsis of the leading arguments, distinctive features, and conclusions. The next four weeks will be given to discussion of the commonly required texts. The next four weeks will be given to reading Baptist newspapers. For the most part, periodical literature should come from Baptist papers such as The Baptist Courier, The Christian Index, The Examiner, The Religious Herald, The Western Recorder, and others listed below. Each student will locate ten articles on each of the three topics of focus, using three distinct periods for location of the articles: 1830-46, 1866-1884; and 1917-1926. The bibliographical information plus a brief synopsis should be made for distribution to the other class members. The final two weeks will be given to the presentation of papers. Each student will present a paper and a response to another student’s paper.

Required Texts:
- Michael Williams and Walter Shurden, eds., *Turning Points in Baptist History*
- James Leo Garrett. *400 years of Baptist Theology*

Baptist Histories for report
- Armitage, *History of the Baptists*
- Robert Baker, *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People*
- Isaac Backus, *A History of New England with Particular reference to the Baptists*
- David Benedict, *A General History of the Baptist Denomination* (1853)
- Fletcher, *History of the Southern Baptist Convention*
- Hassell and Hassell, *History of the Church of God from Creation to 1885*
Assignment Schedule
January 26 – Introductory matters and lecture

February 2 – Presentation of histories
February 9 – Presentation of histories
February 16 – Discussion of *The Baptists*, volume 2, Nettles
February 23 – Discussion of Chute, *Piety*
March 2 – Discussion of Garrett
March 9 – Discussion of Williams and Shurden
March 16 – Newspaper presentations
March 23 – Newspaper presentations
March 30 - Reading Days
April 6 - Newspaper presentations
April 13 – Newspaper presentations
April 20 and 27 – Two papers and responses: December 5 – Presentation of Papers - Each paper will have a respondent. The respondent will open with a critical evaluation of the paper and take several minutes to question the presenter. The presenter then will then give a summary of his research in light of the respondent's analysis. Other class members may then contribute questions and remarks.

Baptist Periodicals (most of these are available on microfilm)

*The Alabama Baptist*

*The Baptist Banner* (1835-1857) and *The Western Recorder* (1857ff)

*The Baptist Record*

*The Baptist Standard*

*The Biblical Recorder* [North Carolina, 1838]

*The Christian Index*

*The Examiner* (published in New York)

*The Latter Day Luminary* (1818-1825)
Several other possibilities are available including some that had very short life

**Monographs and other book length projects of interest**

Babcock, Rufus, Ed. *Memoir of John Mason Peck*

Benedict, David. *Fifty Years Among the Baptists* 286.0973 .B434f


Cuthbert, James. *Life of Richard Fuller* 922.6 .F95c

Dagg, John L. *A Manual of Church Order* 262.46 .D132c


Dagg, John L. *Evidences of Christianity* 239 .D132e


Gillette, A. D. *Minutes of the Philadelphia Association, 1707 - 1807* 286.1748 P53m 1976

Hatcher, William E. *Along the Trail of the Friendly Years* 922.6 .H282a

Hovey, Alvah. *Christian Teaching and Life* 284.4 H824c

Hovey, Alvah. *The Doctrine of the Higher Christian Life compared with the Teaching of Holy Scripture.* 248 .H824d

Hovey, Alvah. *God With Us or the Person and Work of Christ: With an Examination of "The Vicarious Sacrifice" of Dr. Bushnell* 232 .H82

Hovey, Alvah. *The Life and Times of Isaac Backus* 922.6173 B128h

Howell, R. B. C. *The Terms of Communion*

Howell, R. B. C. *The Evils of Infant Baptism*

Jeter, J. B. *Campbellism Examined* 286.6 .J51c

Mell, P. H. *Corrective Church Discipline* 262.46 .M48c [restricted]

Jenkens, C. A. *Baptists Doctrines* 286.04 .J415b

Johnson, W. B. *The Gospel Developed through the Government and Order of the Churches* 262.46 .J639j [rare book area]

Johnson, W. B. *Reminiscences* 922.6173 .J639r [storage]


Southern Baptist Publication Society. *Tracts on Important Subjects* 230.08 .T673o Includes "The Bible" by Dagg, "Human Depravity" by Kendrick, "Justification" by Jeter, "Sanctification" by Mallary, "Infant Baptism" by Dagg plus 2 by E. T. Winkler, and others.

Taylor, John. *Thoughts on Missions* 266.6101 .T215t (microfilm)

Watson, John M. Watson. *The Old Baptist Test* 286.4768 .W334o


**Book Length Bindings of Periodicals**


**Encyclopedias** [for information]

*Dictionary of Baptists in America, ed. Leonard*
*Historical Dictionary of the Baptists, Brackney*
*The Baptist Encyclopedia, Cathcart*
*Annals of the American Pulpit, vol 6 “Baptists”, Sprague*
*Baptists Around the World, Wardin*
*The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*