



The University of Manchester



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities

COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	Baptist History and Principles
Unit code	448
Credit rating	30
Level	7
Contact hours	40
Pre-requisite units	None
Co-requisite units	None
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Thomas A. Breimaier
ECT	15
Notional hours of learning	300

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

The historical developments which receive most attention in this unit are the early shaping of English Baptist life in the seventeenth century, including the influence of the currents of the Reformation; the different stories of General and Particular Baptists; Baptist mission and growth; the effects of the eighteenth-century Evangelical Revival on General and Particular Baptists; overseas mission by Baptists; the formation of the Baptist Union in the nineteenth century; organised home mission and church planting, especially in England; nineteenth-century theological tensions and the role of theological education; the shaping and re-shaping of the Baptist Union in the twentieth century; the challenges to Baptist life of ecumenism and of the Pentecostal and charismatic streams in Britain. The implications of these developments for today will be examined. Principles which shape Baptist identity will be drawn from the studies of Baptist life. Particular attention will be given to issues relating to the nature of the local and wider church in Baptist thought, the understandings of baptism and the Lord's Supper, approaches to worship, ministry and mission, and questions about the relationship of Baptists to other Christian traditions and to the state.

AIMS

To understand historical developments in Baptist life and to use this to evaluate Baptist thought and practices today.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	By the end of this unit students should be able to:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the development of Baptist churches since the seventeenth century, and of Baptist principles
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use an historical perspective to illuminate and evaluate contemporary debates about Baptist identity
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relate the way in which Baptists have attempted to work out a coherent framework of faith and life to issues facing Baptists and others in their worship and witness today carry out independent research in the area of Baptist theology work autonomously present a paper in class

ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A classroom presentation 	15 minutes	n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two essays 	3500-4000 words each	50% each

FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	
Available on which programme(s)?	MTh, pathway ACS

Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and Overview / Baptist Principles in the Light of Baptist History / English Baptist Beginnings in Context Baptist Life Amid Persecution: Confessions and Covenants / A Case Study of Baptist Spirituality: Benjamin Keach Decline and renewal in Eighteenth-Century Baptist Life (part 1) / An example of Eighteenth-Century Baptist Devotion: Anne Steele Decline and renewal in Eighteenth-Century Baptist Life (part 2) / Andrew Fuller and the Foundation of the BMS English Baptists and Slavery: Responses to the Trade in Enslaved Africans in the British Colonies / Overview of the Nineteenth-Century Context / Baptist Life in the 'Nonconformist Century' / Baptists in Europe A Case Study: The Life and Ministry of C.H. Spurgeon Baptists and Socialism: The Life and Ministry of John Clifford Holiness Movements/ Baptist Thinking on the Sacraments Women in Baptist life / A Case Study: Marianne Farningham Developments in Roman Catholicism / Baptists and Ecumenism Baptists & 20th century Charismatic Renewal
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Teaching method	Seminars
Additional eLearning content	Unit materials are available at <i>Spurgeon's Online</i> to support student learning
Feedback	Written feedback within 15 working days from submission

INDICATIVE READING

Indicative primary and secondary source readings will be placed under the relevant sections of the unit's Moodle page. Additional digitally formatted recommended reading is available through a dedicated [Perlego page](#) as well as under the Baptist Digital Library section on the College's [Library page on Moodle](#), both of which are updated periodically as new titles become available.

- Bebbington, David W. (ed.), *The Gospel in the World* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2002)
- Briggs, John H.Y., *The English Baptists of the 19th Century* (Didcot: Baptist Historical Society, 1994)
- Brown, Raymond, *The English Baptists of the 18th Century* (London: Baptist Historical Society, 1986)
- Cross, Anthony R., *Baptism and the Baptists: Theology and Practice in Twentieth-Century Britain* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2000)
- Cross, Anthony R., and Philip E. Thompson (eds.), *Baptist Sacramentalism* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2003)
- Fiddes, Paul S., *Tracks and Traces: Baptist Identity in Church and Theology* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2003)
- Lalleman, Pieter J. (ed.), *Challenging to change: dialogues with a Radical Baptist theologian* (London: Spurgeon's College, 2009)
- McBain, Douglas, *Fire over the Waters* (London: DLT, 1997)
- Morden, Peter J., 'Communion with Christ and his People': *The Spirituality of C.H. Spurgeon (1834-92)* (Oxford: Regent's Park College, 2011)
- Morden, Peter J., *Offering Christ to the World: Andrew Fuller and the Revival of English Particular Baptist Life* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2003)
- Randall, Ian M., Toivo Pilli and Anthony R. Cross (eds), *Baptist Identities: International Studies from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Centuries* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2006)
- Randall, Ian M., *The English Baptists of the 20th Century* (Didcot: Baptist Historical Society, 2005)
- Shepherd, Peter, *The Making of a Modern Denomination: John Howard Shakespeare and the English Baptists, 1898-1924* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2001)
- Stanley, Brian, *The History of the Baptist Missionary Society, 1792-1992* (Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 1992)
- White, Barrie R., *The English Baptists of the 17th Century* (Didcot: Baptist Historical Society, 1996)
- Wright, Nigel G., *Free Church, Free State: The Positive Baptist Vision* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2005)
- Wright, Nigel G., *New Baptists, New Agenda* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2002)