



The University of Manchester



**School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor**

Modified Date: February 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Baptist History and Principles
Unit Code	8243
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	n/a (distance learning delivery only)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Thomas A. Breimaier
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The developments which receive most attention are English Baptist life in the seventeenth century, including the writing of confessions of faith; the differences between General and Particular Baptists; persecution and growth; the effects of the eighteenth-century Evangelical Revival on Baptists; overseas mission; the formation of the Baptist Union in the nineteenth century; home mission and church planting; 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 of Pentecostal and charismatic streams in Britain. The implications of these developments for today are examined and principles which shape Baptist identity are drawn from the studies of Baptist life.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To develop an understanding of Baptist history and principles through a survey of the major themes and episodes in Baptist history from the seventeenth century to the present day and reflection on their implications today. Particular emphasis is given to the Baptist story in England and to issues that face contemporary Baptists in England.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of Baptist churches since the seventeenth century and of how social, political and cultural factors have influenced their beliefs and practices

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate the historical data

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Apply key methods and concepts of historical and theological analysis

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Use an historical perspective to illuminate, evaluate and address contemporary issues in Baptist life in a constructive manner

Employability Skills

Graduates of this course will be able to offer leadership within the contemporary Baptist Church which is informed by the principles and historical foundations of Baptist thought

SYLLABUS

1. Setting the scene
2. The Renaissance and Reformation in Europe
3. Early English Baptist Separatists
4. English General Baptists
5. General Baptists in the Eighteenth Century
6. The New Connexion of General Baptists
7. Particular Baptist Origins
8. Baptists under Pressure
9. The Challenge to Mind and Heart
10. The Evangelical Revival and Particular Baptists
11. Particular Baptists in a Changing World (19th-20th century)
12. The Baptist Union and C.H. Spurgeon
13. A National Baptist Community (1900-1920)
14. A vision of unity in Mission (1918-1949)
15. Consolidation and Self-awareness (1930-1940)
16. Understanding Faith, Enabling Ministry (1950-60;1960-90s)
17. Baptist Identity
18. Conclusion

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Distance learning

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">An essay plan	500 words	n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">An essayA learning journal*	2500 words	100% Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.		

FEEDBACK METHODS

Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as Free Choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

Beasley-Murray, Paul, <i>Radical Believers</i> (Didcot: Baptist Union, 1992)
Bebbington, David W., <i>Baptists Through the Centuries: A History of a Global People</i> (Waco: Baylor, 2010)
Briggs, John H.Y., <i>The English Baptists of the 19th Century</i> (Didcot: Baptist Historical Society, 1994)
Holmes, Stephen R., <i>Baptist Theology</i> (London: T & T Clark, 2012)
<i>Grounded in Grace: Essays to Honour Ian M. Randall</i> , ed. by Pieter J. Lalleman, Peter J. Morden and Anthony R. Cross (London: Spurgeon's College / Baptist Historical Society, 2013)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

n/a

PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

100 hours

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	