

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **THEO 620**

#### **ECCLESIOLOGY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a study of the origin, nature, purpose, mission, polity, and ministry of the church; a major emphasis will be on Baptist ecclesiology.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course provides the student with the opportunity to explore the biblical and theological issues involved in the doctrine of the church in a deeper and more extensive manner than possible in the introductory systematic theology course. One benefit of this course is the practical preparation of the student for effective ministry in local churches based on a biblical understanding of the local church.

In addition, the course challenges the student to think of the church in biblical terms, measuring its contemporary expressions against biblical concepts. The student will also be challenged to think broadly about how his/her own church reflects a biblical model and how, as a church leader, he/she can encourage the congregation in this direction.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify major issues in ecclesiology.
- B. Defend Baptist ecclesiology.

- C. Describe the nature, purpose, organization, and ministry of the church from a biblical perspective.
- D. Relate biblical teaching regarding the church to the various expressions of the church throughout history.
- E. Understand how various denominations resolve ecclesiological concerns in their current expression of Church life, while being able to defend Baptist ecclesiological commitments.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will participate in 4 Discussion Board Forums. The student will submit a thread of 300–400 words in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be supported by the assigned readings, Scripture, and an example from either the student’s own experience or from an outside source. In addition to the thread, the student will reply to at least 2 peers’ threads in 100–200 words. (MLO: A, B, D)

- D. Research Paper. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

The student will submit a research paper of 3700–4500 words on a specific area within the study of Ecclesiology. The paper must include 7 sections: title page, table of contents, introduction (including the thesis worked in), body, conclusion, footnotes, and bibliography; however, only the introduction to conclusion sections count towards the word count. Avoid topics that are extremely broad. The research must defend the thesis, include some mention of other perspectives if such exist, and a defense of the student’s position. Include in the research a brief synopsis of the history or development of this doctrine, if relevant (300–600 words), and a brief application of this doctrine for the church today (300–600 words). The student must have at least 10 scholarly sources that are relevant to his/her topic, and must use them well. No more than 3 sources may be journal articles. All formatting questions should be submitted using the most recent edition of the Turabian manual.

The student will submit this project in three phases:

1. Topic and Thesis

The student must select a topic for his/her research paper. Some topics are listed in the Research Paper Instructions located in the Assignment Instructions folder. The student must state the general topic in which he/she is interested, followed by a thesis on a specific focus within the topic.

2. Proposal and Bibliography

After the topic and thesis have been approved, the student must complete a research paper proposal and bibliography. This portion of the research paper will contain the following components: paper title, revised thesis statement, project summary, preliminary bibliography, and bibliographic summary. The proposal and bibliography must be at least 600 words and must be written in paragraph form (using the provided template).

3. Final Submission

The student must write the research paper using the topic, thesis, proposal, and bibliography. The paper must include 7 sections: cover page, table of contents, introduction including the thesis, body, conclusion, footnotes, and bibliography. The portion consisting of the body of research (the introduction to conclusion sections) must be double-spaced.

E. Book Review and Analysis

The student will write a review and analysis of John. S. Hammett's *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. This will be 2000–2500 words. This is not to be a summary of the book, but rather an analysis of major points Hammett emphasizes. These will be considered in light of biblical teaching, historical development, and practical application in churches. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

F. Covenant Essay

Baptist Churches come together in covenant, usually expressed in a written document. Using material from Allison's book, the student will write an essay of 600–900 words describing the role of a written covenant as a basis for Church unity and polity. The paper must consider ways a church might use a written covenant in its worship, teaching, discipline, and organization. (MLO: B, E)

G. Exams (2)

There are 2 exams in this course: a midterm exam and a final exam. Both exams are open-book/open-notes and have a 1 hour and 30 minute time limit. The Midterm Exam will cover material from Modules/Weeks 1–4. The Final Exam will cover material from Modules/Weeks 5–8. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Research Paper	
Topic and Thesis	25
Proposal and Bibliography	75
Final Submission	200
Book Review and Analysis	150
Covenant Essay	100
Exams (2 at 125 pts ea)	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**B. Scale**

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

**C. Style Guidelines**

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

**D. Extra Credit**

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

**E. Course Changes**

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

**F. Disability Assistance**

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **THEO 620**

Textbooks: Allison, *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church* (2012).  
 Bray, *The Church: A Theological And Historical Account* (2016).  
 Hammett, *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches* (2005).

<b>MODULE /WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Allison: chs. 1–2 Bray: ch. 3 Hammett: Parts 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	50
<b>2</b>	Allison: chs. 3–4 Bray: ch. 4 Hammett: Parts 3–4 2 presentations	Research Paper: Topic and Thesis	25
<b>3</b>	Allison: ch. 5 Bray: chs. 6–7 Hammett: Part 5	DB Forum 2	50
		Book Review and Analysis	150
<b>4</b>	Allison: ch.6 1 article	Midterm Exam	125
<b>5</b>	Allison: ch. 7 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
		Research Paper: Proposal and Bibliography	75
<b>6</b>	Allison: chs. 8–9 1 presentation	Covenant Essay	100
<b>7</b>	Allison: chs. 10–11	Research Paper: Final Submission	200
<b>8</b>	Allison: chs. 12–13 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	50
		Final Exam	125
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.