

*Southeastern Baptist Theological  
Seminary*  
**THE3750 Introduction to Theology &  
Culture**

Semester: Fall 2018  
Professor of Record: Bruce Riley Ashford [bashford@sebts.edu](mailto:bashford@sebts.edu)  
Supervisor: Steve Noble [c2atoday@yahoo.com](mailto:c2atoday@yahoo.com)  
Class assistant: Cindy Hotchkiss [chotchkiss@sebts.edu](mailto:chotchkiss@sebts.edu)

*Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary exists to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by  
equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an exploration of the relationship of theology and culture with particular attention given to the pastoral ministry of equipping families to live wisely in their cultural context.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- The student will critically engage various models for understanding the relation of Christian faith and human culture.
- The student will interact with Christian Scripture, building a basic theology of culture and delineating its implications for a Christian way of life within their own socio-cultural context.
- The student will apply their theology of culture to various dimensions of human culture (arts, sciences, politics, education).

### **TEXTBOOKS/READINGS**

- Bruce Riley Ashford, [Letters to an American Christian](#) (B&H, 2018).
- Os Guinness, Fools Talk: [Recovering the Lost Art of Christian Persuasion](#) (IVP, 2015).
- Russell D. Moore, [Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel](#) (B&H, 2015).
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### **CORE COMPETENCIES**

This course will foster all of the five core competencies in various ways, but especially will help the student in theological integration and ministry preparation. The students will learn to integrate what they have learned in biblical studies, biblical theology, and systematic theology as they formulate a coherent theology of culture and apply it to various aspects of human culture. This is **theological integration**. Further, the students will formulate and articulate exactly how churches, pastors, and parents have a role in equipping God's people to live Christianly in their respective socio-cultural contexts. This is **ministry preparation**.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### Evaluation of Reading Assignments

The student will read the required books and articles, taking notes on each reading and being prepared to discuss the subject matter with the supervisor. Critique could include positive appreciation of the book/article, practical application of the book/article to American culture, probing questions about the book/article, and/or criticisms of the book/article's weaknesses or flaws.

## Writing Project

The student will write either a research paper (approximately 2,500 words) on a topic directly related to the course, or a series of three 800-word opinion articles on pressing cultural issues.

## Internship with Steve Noble

Steve Noble hosts a nationally syndicated Christian talk radio show from a studio on the campus of SEBTS. The student will work closely with Steve on a daily basis as a Production Assistant and Researcher. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Researching show topics
- Suggesting show topics/guests
- Booking guests & working with in-studio guests
- Producing the Facebook Live production of the radio show
- Managing the show's podcast
- Updating content on the website
- May involve occasional travel for on-site interview locations/events
- Steve may invite the student to participate on-air from time to time

Student will be required to be at the studio on campus from 3-5:30pm M-F when Steve is in town and broadcasting locally. All other duties can be done on the student's own time and location. As the show is live on a daily basis, the student needs to be able to commit to the the active and on-going status of the platform.

Student will be paid \$9.00/hour on a bi-weekly basis and can expect to work a minimum of 15 hours per week.

## **GRADING**

- A: 95 – 100
- B: 87 – 94
- C: 77 – 86
- D: 70 – 76
- F: Below 70