

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



**Course Descriptions
for
Asynchronous Classes**

*The following classes are available for distance students immediately.
This list will be updated as more classes are added in an asynchronous format.*

REQUIRED CLASSES

SW700 Baptist Beliefs

Required Class—IMB Approved for wives' requirement

Instructors: Drs. Albert Mohler, Paul Akin, Dustin Bruce, Jeremy Pierre and Hershael York

Text: *The Baptist Faith and Message* by Charles S. Kelley Jr., Richard Land and R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (Lifeway) ISBN 1415852958

Description: Prepare to be tremendously enriched by this course on doctrine. The seminary's president and four of its deans/provost will introduce you to eleven doctrines of faith. They will teach as they would to church members or lay people on an undergraduate level. We believe you will find the text to be both readable and enlightening. Grades will be based on short quizzes given and graded by SWI faculty. The quizzes will cover study guides, notes and lectures. We predict you will use what you learn in this course for years to come. You will also gain a greater appreciation and understanding of what your husbands spend years studying.

SW701 Baptists Then and Now

Required Class

Instructor: Dr. John Wilsey and Mrs. Mary Mohler
Guest speakers, Mrs. Kari Akin and Mrs. Tanya York

Text: *None purchased—required reading is posted on Canvas*

Description: **Baptists Then** is a short course in Baptist history that encompasses the first three weeks of this six week course. Topics include: the origins of Baptists and Southern Baptists; key personalities and events as the convention grew; and controversies such as anti-missionary schism, the Landmark Movement and the rise of liberalism.

Baptists Now seeks to explore the programs and structure of our denomination. We will trace the Cooperative Program and show how it is known as the most effective and efficient denominational mission system in the world. The roles of our Southern Baptist seminaries and

agencies will be laid out. We will also look closely at our missionary sending agencies through the eyes of those who have been commissioned as missionaries. All of these elements will be studied from the perspective of a ministry wife who wishes to be better informed about our denomination.

SW702 Discipleship I (required)

(Cross listed as an elective, Spiritual Health, for those not working towards certificate or have already taken Discipleship through SWI on campus)

Instructor: Mrs. Whitney Bruce

Text: *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney (NavPress, 2015) 978-1615216178. *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health* by Donald S. Whitney (NavPress, 2021) 978-1641583305.

Description: Through this course we will examine the state of our spiritual life using both textbooks. Students will learn more about personal spiritual disciplines and practice them in a way that helps us to better know God and draw nearer to Him. As we work to cultivate and maintain a healthy spiritual life we will also incorporate topics such as gratitude, biblical friendship, remembering and celebrating God's goodness to us, and practical tips for building habits and making time in our busy lives. Writing one's personal testimony is also a part of this class as is a brief Zoom meeting with SWI faculty to discuss the class. Our prayer is that at the end of this course we will have a healthier spiritual life and we will have grown in maturity as Christians.

SW713 Discipleship II (required)

We are counting this as the second discipleship class.

(Cross listed as an elective, **Mentoring**, for those not working towards certificate or have already taken Discipleship through SWI on campus)

Instructor: Mrs. Jaylynn P. Cook

Text: *Spiritual Mothering* by Susan Hunt (Crossway) ISBN 1433503131

Description: This course offers a study of the biblical foundation for mentoring, mentoring as a lifestyle, a mother's role in mentoring her children, and beginning a mentoring ministry in the local church.

SW704 Essentials I and II

SW705 Required Classes—must be taken together

Instructors: Team taught by faculty wives (and one session taught by a seminary professor)

Texts: *The Pastor's Wife* by Gloria Furman (Crossway 2015) 978-1433543838 *How to Thrive as a Pastor's Wife* by Christine Hoover (Baker 2022) 978-0801094491

Description: Join us for 12 sessions in just three days! Considered to be the core courses in our practical curriculum, Essentials I and II deal with your calling as a Christian and a ministry wife; marriage from both a Biblical and practical perspective; your influence on children as well as many other practical areas that apply to ministry life including mentoring, time management, listening and discerning skills, hospitality, starting well/finishing well in various settings and more. You will

glean so much wisdom from these three days as you learn about many different topics from many different ministry wives—all of whom have a passion for their particular topic. Short assignments are given for each of the 12 sessions.

SW706 **Family Life Conference**
Required Class

Instructors: Dr. Bruce Ware and Mrs. Jodi Ware

Text: None

Description: We offer our Family Life Conference in mid September of even numbered years on campus for SWI couples only—and husband are required to attend this event that starts with dinner on Friday night and ends before lunch on Saturday with teaching sessions with Dr. and Mrs. Hershael (Tanya) York. SWI provides meals and a course booklet but the cost of the course is the usual \$20. We encourage Async SWI students to make plans to attend if at all possible but we now have an alternate plan. Dr. and Mrs. Ware were speakers for a marriage conference and we have gladly secured the audio links to it. Students and their husbands must listen to the sessions together and the wives must complete a short written assignment related to each of the sessions.

SW707 **Evangelism Skills for Women**
Required Class

Instructor: Mrs. Sharon M. Beougher

Texts: *How to Give Away Your Faith* by Paul Little. (IVP) ISBN 9780810848546 *Overcoming Walls* by Timothy K. Beougher

Description: This course will challenge you in personal evangelism, give a variety of practical helps in how to share the gospel and help you answer some of the challenging questions people have about the gospel. Some specific topics that will be covered are: giving your personal salvation testimony, how to share the Bridge Illustrations, the importance of prayer in evangelism, how to use creative ideas for the purpose of evangelism, how to share the gospel to children and how to do basic follow up of a new Christian. Accountability groups of three will be used to continue spiritual disciplines and to gain practice in presenting some of these methods discussed.

SW708 **Leadership Skills for Women**
Required Class

Instructor: Mrs. Nora Allison

Text: *Life-giving Leadership* by Karen Hodge and Susan Hunt (CDM/PCA) 2018 ISBN 9781944964351

Description: This course is designed to help the student understand what leadership looks like for women in the home, in the church and in the community. We will be identifying the character and skills that God praises in those who serve Him. We will also be personalizing the answers to the questions, “Where do I lead?” “Who do I lead?” and “How do I lead?” as we explore each woman’s gifting and skills. The students will have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned as they pray for and plan ways to lead in the spheres in which God has placed them.

SW709 **Old and New Testament Survey**
Required Class-- IMB approved for wives' requirement

Instructors: Dr. T.J. Betts and Dr. Thomas J. Schreiner

Text: The Bible

Description: You will be enriched as you study God's Word from Genesis to Revelation in this life-changing overview course taught by two SBTS scholars who have taught grateful student wives in SWI for decades!. Short quizzes are given weekly. Portions of both the Old Testament and New Testament are required reading

ELECTIVE CLASSES

SW702 **Spiritual Health**
(Cross listed as Discipleship I, a required class, for those working towards the certificate who have not taken Discipleship through SWI on campus as we will count this for that required class.) For those who have taken Discipleship on campus, this Spiritual Health class counts as an elective.

Instructor: Mrs. Whitney Bruce

Text: *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney (NavPress, 2015) 978-1615216178. *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health* by Donald S. Whitney (NavPress, 2021) 978-1641583305.

Description: Through this course we will examine the state of our spiritual life using both textbooks. Students will learn more about personal spiritual disciplines and practice them in a way that helps us to better know God and draw nearer to Him. As we work to cultivate and maintain a healthy spiritual life we will also incorporate topics such as gratitude, biblical friendship, remembering and celebrating God's goodness to us, and practical tips for building habits and making time in our busy lives. Writing one's personal testimony is also a part of this class as is a brief Zoom meeting with SWI faculty to discuss the class. Our prayer is that at the end of this course we will have a healthier spiritual life and we will have grown in maturity as Christians.

SW710 **Closer Look at Theology: The Centrality of Scripture for the Christian Life**
Elective Class—IMB approved for wives' requirement

Instructor: Dr. Bruce A. Ware

Text: *The Doctrine of Scripture—An Introduction* by Mark D. Thompson. (Crossway, 2022), ISBN 1433573954

Description: Learn what makes the Bible a fully unique book, and the most important book for our lives. Marvel that it comes from God, with God's own revealed words and divine authority, and so it alone can guide us faithfully and accurately in what we believe and how we should live. Attention will be given to Scripture's inspiration, inerrancy, illumination, and sufficiency. The course ends with considering how we may best read and digest the Bible for our everyday lives. Quizzes over the lectures and a short paper at the end are the assignments for this class.

SW711 Closer Look at the OT: Amos

Elective Class—IMB approved for wives' requirement

Instructor: Dr. T.J. Betts

Text: *Amos: An Ordinary Man with an Extraordinary Message* by T.J. Betts (Christian Focus) ISBN 1845507274

Description: Through this study of Amos, we will be reminded of the importance of the Word of God in our lives. The aim will be to make the messages of this book come alive for the students by paying particular attention to how God uses human agents to accomplish His purposes. Special emphasis will also be placed on developing a theology of ministry so the students will have a sounder biblical understanding of God's claim upon them and their husbands. Students will complete the study questions at the end of each chapter as assignments for this class.

SW712 Marriage and Family

Elective Class

Instructor: Mrs. Tanya York

Text: *Creative Counterpart* by Linda Dillow (Thomas Nelson) ISBN 0785263764

Description: This course will give biblical, practical and applicable principles concerning marriage and family. Each week we seek to retain or regain the true biblical perspective of marriage and family life that culture continues to challenge. We will consider the defining of your roles, conflict management, the specific needs of your husband, and ways to nurture your marriage and keep it fresh and growing. Included will be resourceful ideas for developing other family relationships such as in-laws and children. We will be encouraging and challenging each other as we enjoy our God given responsibilities and opportunities of family.

SW713 Mentoring

(Cross listed as Discipleship II, a required class, for those working towards the certificate who have not taken Discipleship through SWI on campus as we will count this for that required class.) For those who have taken Discipleship on campus, this Mentoring class counts as an elective.

Instructor: Mrs. Jaylynn P. Cook

Text: *Spiritual Mothering* by Susan Hunt (Crossway) ISBN 1433503131

Description: This course offers a study of the biblical foundation for mentoring, mentoring as a lifestyle, a mother's role in mentoring her children, and beginning a mentoring ministry in the local church.

SW714 Ministry of Hospitality

Elective Class

Instructor: Mrs. Mary Mohler

Text: *A Life that Says Welcome: Simple Ways to Open Your Heart and Home to Others* by Karen Ehman, (Revell) ISBN 0800731395

Description: Join us for this elective as we explore the many methods of practicing hospitality. We will first look at the biblical mandates and examples from which we can learn so much. We will then look at the areas specifically related to ministry. Some of the many topics include serving your own family, recipe and menu organization, event planning at home and at church, etiquette, hospitality in writing, evangelistic hospitality and overcoming challenges. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate hospitality as a part of this course by choosing an area in which they deem they need to improve. Practical assignments correspond to the weekly topics.

SW715 **Women of the Bible**
Elective Class

Instructor: Mrs. Sharon Beougher

Text: Assigned portions of the Bible

Description: The Bible mentions 187 women by name and refers to hundreds of nameless women. We can learn priceless lessons from them to see what God wants to teach us on how to be a godly woman; on the other hand, we can also learn from others in God's Word some mistakes to avoid. In this course we will take a look at Esther, Ruth, Jochebed (Moses' mother), the Hebrew midwives, Naaman's wife's maid, the Proverbs 31 woman, Rahab, Lydia, Mary and Martha, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Lois, Eunice and others. We will also learn how to do a biographical Bible study. Students will be expected to write a personal application from the life of each woman we study to turn in weekly, and will choose a woman about whom to write a biographical study to turn in at the end of the course.

SW716 **Introduction to Biblical Interpretation**
Elective Class-- IMB approved for wives' requirement

Instructor: Drs. Rob Plummer and Brian Vickers

Text: *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible SECOND Edition* by Robert Plummer (Kregel)
B08TDYPFX1

Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the goal of interpretation. In so doing we shall look at the part that the Holy Spirit plays in interpretation, how to arrive at the meaning of biblical text as well as their present day implications, and to learn how to interpret the various literary genres (poetry, prophecy, parable, etc.) found in the Bible. These professors will teach this important class on a certificate level, as is the case with all SWI classes. They will provide a plethora of resources related to the book, including powerpoint presentations, lesson plans, discussion guide, etc. The goal is that students will be prepared to teach a group of women in their church a class on biblical interpretation.

SW717 **Closer Look at New Testament: Mark**
Elective Class-- IMB approved for wives' requirement

Instructor: Dr. Bill Cook

Text: *40 Days in Mark* by William F. Cook (B&H Books, 2020)
ISBN 9781535993449

Description: This course will be an exegetical study of the Life of Christ in the Gospel of Mark. The focus of the course will be the biblical text with attention given to how the life of Jesus is relevant and

applicable to our lives and ministry in the 21st century. Dr. Cook's new book will be the text. Quizzes will be given over each session.

SW719 **Cross Cultural Ministries**
Elective Class

Instructor: Mrs. Donna Martin

Text: *When It's Time to Go* by Brandi Biesiadecki (Tertius House Publishers) ISBN 0984343903
Out of print but a free copy will be sent to registered students on request.

Description: The course introduces the Biblical foundation for missions. Contemporary issues will be explored including: the appointment process, cross cultural communication, practical issues in the missionary life. Guest speakers related to both NAMB and IMB will be a part of this class as well. Students will be expected to complete weekly assignments and participate in class discussions. Students will complete a final project based upon the student's integration of class lectures and resources, with her own personal pilgrimage. Students should complete and upload the survey posted on Canvas once they register for the class so as to help determine specific desired content for this unique class.

SW720 **Seminar Saturday**
Elective Class

Instructors: Team taught by SBTS faculty, SWI faculty and guest speakers
Text: Students will choose one book to read from the resource list given for all seminars

Description: We are making this on campus event available as an elective course for Async students by allowing them to listen to 8 of the 9 one hour seminars by audio recording. We regret we do not have video recordings. On campus students who attended this event in March 2022 were given the option to attend 5 seminars and listen to 3 others by recording and then write 8 one page papers about what they learned, plus read one book and write a book review, so we are duplicating those requirements here. The topics of the seminars are purposefully varied and timely! Students may request a list of seminar descriptions prior to registering for this course by emailing us at swi@sbts.edu.

SW721 **Redeeming the Time**
Elective Class

Instructors: Mrs. Mary Mohler and Mrs. Jodi Ware

Texts: *Redeeming Productivity* by Reagan Rose (Moody, 2022) ISBN 978-0802428943 (You will also choose a second book from an approved list)

Description: This course will seek to explore the value of time management as it applies to ministry wives. We will first look at the Biblical basis for setting goals and priorities. Various types of organizational styles will be outlined. We will look at how issues such as perfectionism, procrastination, and the inability to say "no" hamper effective time management. Many practical issues will be discussed in detail including planners; handling paper; avoiding clutter; home management; housekeeping and kitchen organization. Assignments will involve directly applying principles discussed in class and briefly reporting on progress made. This course is aimed at challenging those who are already skilled in areas of organization and motivating those who have room for vast improvement.

SW723 **Counseling Women in the Local Church**
Elective Class

Instructor: Dr. Colin McCulloch

Text: *Counseling Women: Biblical Wisdom for Life's Battles* by Kristen Kellen (B&H Academic, 2022), ISBN 978-1087737508

Description: This course will focus on the important role that women play in supporting the mission of the church through helping one another in the battle against sin and in faithfully enduring life's struggles and hardships. A biblical, pastoral perspective will be offered on counseling issues pertaining specifically to women. Students will attend lectures, participate in class discussion, complete reading assignments, and write several short practical papers to aid them in preparing to counsel their fellow women from Scripture.