



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Historical Theology Reading List

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Historical Theology will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Reading List

- Anatolios, Khaled. *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011)
- Evans, G. R., ed. *The Medieval Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Medieval Period*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2001.
- Holifield, Brooks. *Theology in America: Christian Thought from the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.
- Dorien, Gary. *The Remaking of Evangelical Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster-John Knox, 1998.
- Brackney, William. *A Genetic History of Baptist Thought*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2004.
- Lindberg, Carter. *The European Reformations*, 2nd ed. Oxford, UK and Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2010.
- Noll, Mark A. *The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
- Robert, Dana. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*. Oxford, UK and Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Questions

1. Choose any two doctrines and discuss theological continuity and discontinuity between the Patristic and Medieval eras.
2. Choose any two doctrines and discuss theological continuity and discontinuity between the Medieval and Reformation eras.
3. Discuss the development of the doctrine of the Trinity during the second through fourth centuries.
4. Discuss varying perspectives on biblical interpretation during the Patristic era.
5. Compare and contrast the sacramental theology of the Lutheran, Reformed, and Radical traditions during the Reformation era.
6. Discuss varying perspectives on the relationship between Scripture and tradition during the Reformation era.

7. Discuss varying perspectives on the relationship between church and state during the Reformation era.
8. Discuss theological continuity and discontinuity between Reformation movements and the earliest modern evangelicals in the eighteenth century.
9. Discuss the influence of the Enlightenment upon the development of Protestant theology in America.
10. Discuss American evangelical theologies of Scripture from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day.
11. Discuss the influence of revival and spiritual awakening upon Baptist thought in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
12. Discuss theological continuity and discontinuity between Southern Baptists and American evangelicalism since World War II.