

PREA6222/6322/PHIL6322 - PULPIT APOLOGETICS
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries and
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Dr. Mike Miller: mmiller@nobts.edu/504-655-4512
Institute of Christian Apologetics

Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the disciplines of Pastoral Ministries and Apologetics.

The core value for 2014-2015 is *Spiritual Vitality* -- We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

The course will address competencies of Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Disciple Making. Core Values addressed include:

- 1) *Doctrinal Integrity*—a proper grasp of God’s truth as revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ, through His Word provides the necessary foundation to pursue the other four core values listed by the seminary. This is the core value most directly addressed by the course.
- 2) *Mission Focus*—the content of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) permeates the material covered by this course.

Course Description

This is an advanced course, which considers the role of apologetics in expository preaching. Students are exposed to a variety of homiletical approaches aimed at demonstrating the truth and relevance of God’s Word in contemporary culture. Emphasis is given to proclamation aimed at forming a Christian worldview in the minds and hearts of hearers. Recommended prerequisites: PREA5300 Proclaiming the Bible and PHIL5301 Christian Apologetics.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe various issues in contemporary culture which can be addressed by apologetic expository preaching.
2. Understand and articulate effective apologetic responses to contemporary challenges to the Christian faith.
3. Value the role of Christian apologetics in expository preaching aimed at demonstrating the truth and relevance of God’s Word in culture today.
4. Apply the principles of expository preaching to the development of apologetic sermons and sermon series through a variety of homiletical approaches.

Textbooks

For all students:

Copan, Paul. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Sermons that Connect with Our Culture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

Additional textbook for 3 hour students:

Loscalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2000.

Course Requirements

Workshop Assignment: Plenary Session Notes (Due 1/26)

PREA6222 (2 hour course) – Take notes on 8 of the 11 ICA plenary sessions (heard either in person or by recording). Turn in a one page single spaced summary for each plenary session.

Your notes should outline or overview (a) the content of the Apologetic issue presented, (b) your brief evaluation of the relevance of the issue in your current or intended ministry setting, and (c) your brief reflections on what you learned about presenting this issue in a public forum.

PREA6322/PHIL6322 (3 hour course) – Turn in notes for all 11 ICA plenary sessions, as described above.

Post-workshop Assignment: Book Reviews of the Texts (Due 2/9)

PREA6222 (2 hour course) – Read the Copan and Eswine texts carefully, and write a book review of about 3 single-spaced pages each. Your book review should include two key elements: (a) an annotated summary of the content of the book, especially with regard to apologetic preaching, and (b) your evaluation of what you found helpful/contributions/strengths in the book, as well as its weaknesses. The content summary should be about two pages and the evaluation about one page. References within the books may be references in parentheses; other references should be footnoted.

PREA6322/PHIL6322 (3 hour course) – In addition to the above assignments, do a similar book review of the Loscalzo text.

Post-Workshop Assignment: Sermon Series on Apologetics (Due 3/2)

PREA6222 (2 hour course) – Students will prepare a sermon series which addresses issues in contemporary culture from a perspective of Apologetics, and which demonstrates the truth and relevance of God's Word. The series is to consist of 6 sermons. The series might involve all of the sermons addressing a single issue or cluster of issues, or six different topics. The student must submit: (1) a one-page overview of the entire series, including texts, titles, and summaries of each sermon; (2) a sermon brief and sermon study notes for each sermon to be preached; (3) one sermon manuscript from a particular sermon in the series; and (4) a single-spaced Selected Bibliography of resources useful for the preacher in implementing this preaching plan in a preaching ministry. The professors will provide the sermon brief form and other form guides.

PREA6322/PHIL6322 (3 hour course) – Prepare a 9 sermon series and 1 sermon manuscript, with all the components described for the 2 hour course assignment above.

Post-Workshop Assignment: Greer-Heard Report (Due 5/15) Students must attend the April 10-11, 2015 *Christians, the Environment, and Climate Change*, featuring E. Calvin Beisner and Bill McKibben, and write a summary and critique of the event, including all Saturday papers. The summaries should include some professional biographical data on each presenter, as well as their major points of content. Students should respond to their points critically. Students unable to attend the Greer-Heard activities may purchase the audio CDs (or MP3 files) from the conference to prepare the report, or a research paper may be substituted for this assignment. Reports should be 12-15 double-spaced pages in length, not counting bibliography.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to exercise the highest of ethics and integrity in keeping with the character of Christ when completing all assignments, especially regarding the Seminary's standards regarding plagiarism (see NOBTS catalog). The grading scale and attendance requirements will be those outlined in the current Academic Catalog. The value of assignments will be as follows below for each course.

PREA6222 (2 hour course):

Copan Book Review 10%

Eswine Book Review 10%

Plenary Session Notes (8 sessions) 30%

Sermon Series (6 sermons, 1 manuscript) 30%

Greer-Heard Report 20%

PREA6322/PHIL6322 (3 hour course)

Copan Book Review 10%

Eswine Book Review 10%

Loscalzo Book Review 10%

Plenary Session Notes (11 sessions) 20%

Sermon Series (9 sermons, 1 manuscript) 30%

Greer-Heard Report 20%

NOBTS grading scale: 93-100, A; 85-92, B; 77-84, C; 70-76, D; 60-69, F.

Note: Late work is penalized at the rate of two points per school day.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class and cannot miss any workshop days, as per seminary policy. Please inform the professors if emergency issues affecting attendance arise.

Selected Bibliography

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- Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York: Free Press, 1996.
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- Clark, David. *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.
- Clark, Kelly James, ed. *Philosophers Who Believe*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Clarke, Andrew and Bruce W. Winter. *One God, One Lord: Christianity in a World of Religious Pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Paternoster Press, 1992.
- Clendenin, Daniel. *Many Gods, Many Lords: Christianity Encounters World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.
- Colson, Chuck and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1999.
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- Crockett, William V. and James G. Signountos., ed. *Through No Fault of Their Own? The Fate of Those Who Have Never Heard*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1991.
- Dembski, William A. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
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- _____. *Truth or Consequences*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Biblical Sermons that Connect with Our Culture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Fackre, Gabriel, Ronald H. Nash, and John Sanders. *What About Those Who Have Never Heard? Three Views on the Destiny of the Unevangelized*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Fish, Stanley. *Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980.
- . *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.
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