

Theology of Sexuality and Gender

THEO/ETHC6311

Defend the Faith Christian Apologetics Conference

January 3-8, 2016

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies

Dr. Jeffrey Riley
Professor of Ethics
Dodd 107; 3939 Gentilly Blvd, Box 160
New Orleans, LA 70126

Office: (504) 816-8017
E-mail: jriley@nobts.edu
Grader: Stephen Suluma

Mission Statement

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

Core Value Focus

Theology of Sexuality and Gender seeks to produce *doctrinal integrity* and *spiritual vitality* so that the student can understand and exercise a Christian moral life. These core values will be attained through the development of competencies in doctrinal integrity and character formation as well as in the integration of theology and ethics. *Mission focus* is the core value focus for NOBTS this year, which not only points to the directing work of our lives but also to the nature and goal of being humans, male and female, who are redeemed by God and sent to live and proclaim the gospel.

Course Description

This course is a biblical and theological analysis of manhood and womanhood. Topics to be investigated include the nature of man and woman as created by God, the effects of the Fall on gender, and the implications of Christ's redemption upon the roles and relationships of men and women.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling Christian character and communicating ethical truth, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to **Understand** a biblical, theological, and rational basis for a Christian position on human sexuality and gender.
2. Be able to **apply** a Christian theology and ethic to contemporary issues related to human sexuality and gender.
3. Be able to **communicate** competently and convincingly Christian ethical and theological truths about human sexuality and gender.

Course Teaching Methodology

This is an event course tied to attending the *Defend the Faith Conference* at NOBTS. The Breakout sessions for this course will include lectures and class discussions, and will be taped for the conference. Following the Conference, students will continue to learn through reading and writing assignments, examination, and audio resources.

Textbooks

Grant, Jonathan. *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age*. Foreword by James K. A. Smith. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2015.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Margaret E. Köstenberger. *God's Design for Man and Woman: A Biblical-Theological Survey*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.

Kuehne, Dale S. *Sex and the iWorld: Rethinking Relationship beyond an Age of Individualism*. Foreword by Jean Bethke Elshtain. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Choose ONE (1) of the following for Text Review 1:

Struthers, William M. *Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009.

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015.

Review the following for Text Review 2:

Shaw, Ed. *Same-Sex Attraction and the Church: The Surprising Plausibility of the Celibate Life*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2015.

Choose ONE (1) of the following for Text Review 3:

Budziszewski, J. *On the Meaning of Sex*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2012.

Budziszewski presents a view from reason, representing what could be described as an “open to evangelical” Roman Catholic tradition.

Burk, Denny. *What is the Meaning of Sex?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Burk presents a view from revelation and theological tradition, representing Southern Baptists.

Course Requirements (You must turn in all assignments to pass the class. All assignments are submitted to the class blackboard.)

Conference Participation Assignment (10% of Grade)

Lecture Attendance. Students are required to attend all plenary sessions as well as one breakout presentation for each breakout session, and listen to audio recordings of all breakout sessions they cannot physically attend.

Participation in the Conference requires that students do the following:

- Attend all Plenary Sessions
- Attend one breakout presentation for each breakout session
- Listen to audio recordings of all breakout sessions not physically attended
- Each student will submit to Blackboard by the due date a listening accountability statement estimating total participation, as described above
- **Due 6 weeks after the last day of the Defend the Faith Apologetics Conference (Friday, February 19, 2016).**

Textbook Reading Report (15% of Grade)

Each student is required to submit a reading accountability statement estimating how much of the total required reading was completed by the due date, with a brief statement of one important concept gleaned from the book.

- For the reading report, simply record your name and the collective total percentage read from the following books. Include for each book, in no more than half a page, a statement describing one important concept gleaned from the book:
 1. Grant, *Divine Sex*, should be read completely.
 2. Köstenberger and Köstenberger. *God's Design for Man and Woman*, should be read completely
 3. Kuehne, *Sex and the iWorld*, should be read completely
- This assignment is **on your honor**. **The collective percentage read from all books will be your grade.**
- **Due 6 weeks after the last day of the Defend the Faith Apologetics Conference (Friday, February 19, 2016).**

Three Book Reviews (15% of final grade each)

Students will write **one** book review from **each** of the **Text Review 1, Text Review 2,** and **Text Review 3** lists (for a total of 3 reviews).

Book reviews may be submitted as they are completed, but the following are firm Due Dates:

Text Review One Due (8 weeks after DtF): March 4, 2016
Text Review Two Due (10 weeks after DtF): March 18, 2016
Text Review Three Due (12 weeks after DtF): April 1, 2016

These reviews should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The book review should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account biblical, theological, and ethical principles and sound reasoning.
2. The critique should be **3-5 single spaced typed pages**.
3. Content should include the following. **Do not simply summarize chapters:**
 - A brief statement introducing the author and title of the book and communicating that the book has been read in its entirety. If the book has not been completely read, then communicate the truth about how much was read
 - The primary thesis, purpose, and/or description of the book
 - Major ethical insights communicated by the book. What points are particularly helpful for applying Christian ethics?
 - Ideas that changed or challenged your thinking (Ideas that are interesting, novel, or problematic). How and Why?
 - Insights in this book that relate practically to life and ministry, the life of the church, and to moral life in America
 - Major strengths and weaknesses of the book
 - In the conclusion, a brief statement of recommendation; why you would or would not recommend this book.
4. Develop subheading from the above bullet points (2-7).

***Research Paper* (30% of final grade)**

Submitted to Dr. Riley via the Class Blackboard (do not email).

Due: 14 weeks after the last day of the Defend the Faith Apologetics Conference (Friday, April 15, 2016).

Each student will **write** a research paper on an issue related to the course, Theology of Sexuality and Gender. Following are a few general examples:

- What causes behaviors displayed by those who claim to be LGBTQ or something else? What is a Christian response, theological and ethical?
- What is gender? How is gender understood culturally? What is a biblical, theological response?
- What does it mean to be created male or female, and how should a Christian understanding of being male and female inform sexual issues in American culture?
- Do distinctions in being male and female extend to particular roles for men and women in society, in the church?
- How should the church respond to cultural mores, ideologies, and practices on sexuality or gender that conflict with a Christian ethic and theology?
- What is the relationship between human sexuality, the brain, and the soul?

Responsibilities: submit papers to Dr. Riley via SafeAssignment on Blackboard.

Research Paper Guidelines

1. The official style and form guide is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, latest edition.
2. Length: 15-20 double-spaced pages

3. Use footnotes, not endnotes.
4. Use Times New Roman 12 point font for body of text.
5. Include a title page
6. Do not include a table of contents. Do not use Chapters for a paper this length.
7. Limited use of first person (I or we) and second person (you) is allowed.
Arguments, however, should be presented in such a manner so as to eliminate the need for all but third person references.
8. Use correct grammar and spelling.
9. The uses of past tense and present tense must be consistent. Generally, past tense is used to refer to historical events and persons, including writers of published materials. Present tense is utilized to present arguments, interact with opinions and viewpoints, and cite extant texts.
10. Do not use split infinitives.
11. Avoid one-sentence paragraphs.
12. Do not overuse indefinite pronouns (such as “it” or “there” without an antecedent).
13. Avoid “widows” and “orphans.”

Course Evaluation

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below. Borderline grades will normally be determined by the numerical grade received (I round up from .5), unless the student's promptness and faithfulness in class attendance, positive attitude and contribution in class discussions, and preparedness and attentiveness in class warrants special consideration. These factors only apply when the student is fractionally close to the next highest grade. In special cases, extra credit can be arranged with Dr. Riley.

Grade Distribution by Assignment and Due Dates

<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Participation	10%	Due: Friday, February 19, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Reports (4 books)	15%	Due: Friday, February 19, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Selected Text Review 1	15%	Due: Friday, March 4, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Selected Text Review 2	15%	Due: Friday, March 18, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Selected Text Review 3	15%	Due: Thursday, April 1, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Final Paper</u>	<u>30%</u>	Due: Friday, April 15, 2016
	100%	

General Schedule for the Week

Check the Defend the Faith event schedule to see the topics, times, and locations for the Ethics Breakout Sessions. Any breakout session taught by Dr. Riley will count towards the Christian Ethics course and must be either attended or listened to via MP3 in order to get full credit for conference participation.

Miscellaneous but Important Course Policies

1. **Participation.** You must attend the entire conference.
2. **Absences.** You must attend the entire Defend the Faith Conference to get credit for the course.
3. **Late Work.** Work turned in late will be penalized. No assignment will be accepted that is over two weeks late, and all late work will be assessed a proportional penalty (two points per day) unless **prior permission** is sought and a legitimate reason warrants lateness. **Late work should include the date due and the day delivered on the cover page.**

Select Bibliography

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Budziszewski, J. *What We Can't Not Know: A Guide*. Dallas: Spence, 2004.

Campbell, Ken M. *Marriage and Family in the Biblical World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.

Chamberlain, Paul. *Talking about Good and Bad without Getting Ugly: A Guide to Moral Persuasion*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.

Clark, David K., and Robert V. Rakestraw, eds. *Reading in Christian Ethics. Vol. 1, Theory and Method*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

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Colson, Charles W., with Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 2000.

Cook, David. *The Moral Maze: A Way of Exploring Christian Ethics*. London: SPCK, 1983.

Coppenger, Mark. *Moral Apologetics for Contemporary Christians: Pushing Back Against Cultural and Religious Critics*. B&H Studies in Christian Ethics, ed. Daniel R. Heimbach. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2011.

Dallas, Joe and Nancy Heche, *The Complete Christian Guide to Understand Homosexuality*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1982.

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