



PREA6222/6322 Pulpit Apologetics
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is *Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Servant Leadership.

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.

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 Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. Conference attendance. Students will attend the “Defend 2017” conference and participate actively in plenary sessions, demonstrating a grasp of the issues presented in each lecture. Students will also attend or view the 2017 Greer-Heard conference and compile a report demonstrating a high level of understanding of conference subject matter.
2. Lecture. Much of the class time will consist of lecture by the professor in conjunction with the “Defend 2017” conference, and students are expected to interact, thus demonstrating both a quest for knowledge and a grasp of the course material.
3. Homiletics. Students will plan a sermon series and write sermon briefs and a sermon manuscript in order to demonstrate their ability to choose appropriate preaching texts, conduct thorough exegesis, and develop sermons for use in the local church.

Course Requirements

Workshop Assignment: Plenary Session Notes (Due 1/27)

PREA6222 (2 hour course) – Take notes on 8 of the 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 (3 hour course) – Turn in notes for 12 ICA plenary sessions, as described above.

Post-workshop Assignment: Book Reviews of the Texts (Due 2/10)

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 (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 3/3)

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 (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 5/5) Students must attend the March 25, 2017 *Christians, Jews, and Jesus*, featuring Ben Witherington, III and Amy Jill-Levine, and write a summary and critique of the event. 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 (topic for a research paper must be cleared by the professor). Reports should be 8-10 double-spaced pages in length, not counting bibliography.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

PREA6222 (2 hour course):

- 10% Copan Book Review
- 10% Eswine Book Review
- 30% Plenary Session Notes (8 sessions)
- 30% Sermon Series (6 sermons, 1 manuscript)
- 20% Greer-Heard Report

PREA6322 (3 hour course)

- 10% Copan Book Review
- 10% Eswine Book Review
- 10% Loscalzo Book Review
- 20% Plenary Session Notes (12 sessions)
- 30% Sermon Series (9 sermons, 1 manuscript)
- 20% Greer-Heard Report

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

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Class Policies

1. Late work will be penalized one letter grade per day. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.
2. Because of the nature of the workshop format, attendance is mandatory for all class sessions.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Students must register for the “Defend 17” conference. All sessions connected to the Pulpit Apologetics course must be attended. If a conflict exists with sessions related to another course the student is taking, the audio recordings can be substituted for live attendance. Prior approval of the professor is necessary.

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