



THEO/PHIL 6320 Dealing with Bible Difficulties
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
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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 the 2016-17 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 Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

This course surveys the nature of Scripture, basic Christian convictions concerning the doctrine of Scripture, and the sorts of claims that are brought against the reliability of the Bible, particularly to its textual and historical reliability. Additionally, attention will be given to common claims that there are contradictions in the Bible and, when appropriate, to issues concerning the development of the canon of Scripture.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be introduced to the basic issues related to the reliability of the Bible by attending class lectures.
2. Students will be introduced to the basic issues related to the reliability of the Bible by reading the primary texts and assigned readings.
3. Students will be introduced to the basic issues related to the reliability of the Bible when tested through quizzes and exams.

Required Textbooks

Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of the New Testament: The Challenge to Evangelical Christian Beliefs*. B & H Studies in Christian Apologetics. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2016.

Cowan, Steven B. and Terry L. Wilder, *In Defense of the Bible: A Comprehensive Apologetic for the Authority of Scripture*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2013.

Stewart, Robert B. *The Reliability of the New Testament: Bart D. Ehrman and Daniel B. Wallace in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011.

Optional Textbooks

Carson, D. A. *The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

Merrick, J. and Stephen M. Garrett. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Counterpoint: Bible and Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Morrow, Jonathan. *Questioning the Bible: 11 Major Challenges to the Bible's Authority*. Chicago: Moody, 2014.

Jones, Timothy Paul. *Misquoting Truth: A Guide to the Fallacies of Bart Ehrman's "Misquoting Jesus."* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2007.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

Students will meet for class at the NOBTS main campus during the week of spring break. Assignments will be turned in at a later date and evaluated via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

1. Students will be quizzed as to their knowledge of material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and class discussion.
2. Students will read assigned readings and write three book reviews.
3. Students will take a final exam.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Quizzes	10%
Book Review 1	20%
Book Review 2	20%
Book Review 3	20%
Final exam	30%
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	100%

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.

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

- 1) Introduction to the Course
- 2) Introducing Challenges to Biblical Authority and Reliability
- 3) Philosophical and Methodological Issues
 - i) Text Criticism
 - ii) Source Criticism
 - iii) Form Criticism
 - iv) Redaction Criticism
 - v) Inspiration
 - vi) Inerrancy and Infallibility
- 4) The Stability of the Biblical Text
- 5) The Question of Canon
 - i) Other Gospels
 - ii) Authorship Issues
- 6) Questions About the Gospels
 - i) Did Jesus Actually Exist?
 - ii) Are the New Testament Gospels Rehashed Pagan Myths?
- 7) The Bible and Science
 - i) Creation
 - ii) Miracles
 - iii) Incarnation
 - iv) Resurrection
- 8) Select Problem Passages

Selected Bibliography

- Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of the New Testament: The Challenge to Evangelical Christian Beliefs*. B & H Studies in Christian Apologetics. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2016.
- Carson, D. A. *The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Cowan, Steven B. and Terry L. Wilder, *In Defense of the Bible: A Comprehensive Apologetic for the Authority of Scripture*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2013.
- Dunn, James D. G. *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament: An Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity*. London: SCM Press, 2006.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *Forged: Writing in the Name of God—Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2011.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ellis, E. Earle. *The Making of the New Testament Documents*. Boston and Leiden: Brill, 1999.
- Jones, Timothy Paul. *Misquoting Truth: A Guide to the Fallacies of Bart Ehrman's "Misquoting Jesus."* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2007.
- Lindsell, Harold. *The Battle for the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.
- Lindsell, Harold. *The Bible in the Balance: A Further Look at the Battle for the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.
- Merrick, J. and Stephen M. Garrett. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Counterpoint: Bible and Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Morrow, Jonathan. *Questioning the Bible: 11 Major Challenges to the Bible's Authority*. Chicago: Moody, 2014.
- Rogers, Jack Bartlett and Donald K. McKim. *The Authority and Interpretation of the Bible: An Historical Approach*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1979.
- Stewart, Robert B. *The Reliability of the New Testament: Bart D. Ehrman and Daniel B. Wallace in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011.
- Vanderkam, James C. *From Revelation to Canon: Studies in the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Literature*. Boston and Leiden: Brill, 2003.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Biblical Authority after Babel: Retrieving the Solas in the Spirit of Mere Protestant Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2016.
- Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge. *Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Second Edition. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1980.
- Woodbridge, John D. *Biblical Authority: A Critique of the Rogers/McKim Proposal*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.