

Postmodernity and Contemporary Theological Issues

THEO/PHIL 6328- Spring 2018

Page Brooks

Associate Professor of Theology and Culture

Dodd 108

504-282-4455, ext. 8011

pbrooks@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

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

Core Value and Key Competency

The primary core value of the Seminary addressed in this course is Doctrinal Integrity. The primary key competency in ministry addressed is Christian Theological Heritage. The core value for the 2017-2018 academic year is servant leadership.

Core Values Focus

Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, and Characteristic Excellence

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

Christian Theological Heritage

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to recent trends in philosophical and theological studies with an emphasis on the influence of postmodernity. Special attention will be given to theology's relationship to postmodern culture and how such a relationship influences the local church and its ministries.

Recommended Prerequisites

Systematic Theology I and II, and Philosophy of Religion.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and define contemporary theological doctrines and movements;
2. Differentiate evangelical theology from deviant and heretical doctrines;
3. Intelligently discuss types of postmodern philosophies and theologies;
4. Analyze popular culture for theological and philosophical themes; and
5. Analyze theology for any influence postmodernity and postmodern culture has exerted upon it.

Required Texts

1) Erickson, Millard. *Truth or Consequences: The Promise and Perils of Postmodernity*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2001.

2) Students will read selected portions of works, which will be posted on the NOBTS Blackboard.

Course Methodology

This course will consist of group discussions, Power Point presentations (lecture), audio-visual presentations (movies and videos), student presentations, and student-attended pop culture events.

Course Requirements

- 1. Absences:** School policies concerning absences and tardiness will be strictly enforced. Due to the format of this class, students are encouraged to select carefully days they will be absent
- 2. Exam:** One examination will be given at the end of the class as a take-home exam. The test will cover both materials covered in class and in the readings. The test will consist of objective sections (matching, true/false, and multiple answer questions) and subjective sections (identification and essay questions). The exam will count for 25% of the class average.
- 3. Book Review:** Each student will write a 5-page, double-spaced (Times Roman 12 point font) book review and analysis covering the required Erickson textbook. This review will discuss the contents of the book as well as provide analysis of the arguments presented within the book. Half the paper should be a review of the contents of the book and the other half a personal critique and reflection of the contents of the book. This paper will be graded for both its content and its form, which is to follow the guidelines outlined in the most recent edition of Turabian and is to be produced on a computer. The grade will be counted off five points for every day that the paper is late. The book review and analysis will compose 20% of the final semester grade.
- 4. Research paper:** Each student will write a 15-page position paper (in Turabian format) on the topics assigned. The topics for the paper will be discussed and assigned at the start of the semester. Papers should be written in Turabian format. The position paper will count toward 25% of the final grade.
- 5. Group Activity-“Cultural Currents in Everyday Life”:**
Groups will go to everyday places of life and observe cultural trends that relate to philosophy, theology, and biblical themes. Such trends may be taken from malls, gas stations, downtown sidewalks, movie theaters, etc. Should be 1 page, double-spaced, in formal writing format. Students should spend at least one hour observing the “culture” looking for the influence of postmodernity in light of biblical truth. Each group will give a 10-minute presentation of their observations during the workshop. Groups will be assigned on the first day of the class.
- 6. Participation:** All students are responsible for being in the classroom on time, reading the assigned materials, and participating in the class discussions. Therefore, each student will receive a class participation grade. This grade will be based upon three criteria; class attendance and tardiness, contribution to class discussions, and reading quiz grades. This grade will compose 10% of the final class grade.
- 7. Seminar participation:** Part of the class will be conducted in a seminar format in which students will lead discussion on the assigned readings and also present their papers. During paper presentations there will also be students respond to the papers. During this time of the class, students are expected to be ready, having read all

assigned reading, thought critically on the material, and prepared to answer questions the professor and others may ask. The student is not expected to have all the “answers,” but instead simply show that they have reflected on the material and can engage in critical conversation.

Grading

The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Final Exam		20%
Position Paper	30%	
Book Review		20%
Events Analysis		10%
Participation	10%	
Seminar Participation	10%	
Final grade		100%

ENROLLING ON BLACKBOARD:

- **Find course marked “Postmodernity and Contemporary Theological Issues” with Brooks as the instructor.**
- **Enroll in the course.**
- **The course IS NOT password protected. You should not have to enter in any code to enroll.**
- **Under the Blackboard course, you should find the syllabus and all relevant readings for the course.**
- **YOU MUST ENROLL ON BLACKBOARD. FAILURE TO ENROLL IN BLACKBOARD WILL CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR FAILING THE COURSE!**

Course Schedule:

1/25- Intro to class- via teleconference-link will be emailed
1/27- Lecture on Introduction to Culture- via teleconference)
1/30- Lecture on Introduction to Culture
2/1- Lecture on Postmodern and Its Definitions

2/6- Reading Seminar- Grenz "Postmodern Primer"
2/8-Reading Seminar- Drumm "Postmodern's Progress"
2/13- Mardi Gras break
2/15-Reading Seminar- Erickson (Book Reviews Due)
2/20- Reading Seminar- Erickson
2/22- Reading Seminar- Erickson
2/27- Reading Seminar- Erickson
3/1- Open Theism- Boyd "God of the Possible"
3/6- Open Theism- Ware "ETS Paper"
3/8- Modern Views of Hell- Fudge "The End of the Wicked"
3/13- Modern Views of Hell
3/15- Homosexuality
3/20- Spring Break
3/22- Spring Break
3/27- Homosexuality- Brooks "Biblical Basis on Sexuality"
3/29- Homosexuality- Other Readings on Blackboard
4/3- World Religions- Osborne "Those Who Have Never Heard"
4/5- Cultural Observation Day
4/10- Reports from Cultural Observation Day
4/12- Islam and Christianity in Postmodernity
4/17- World Conflict in Postmodernity
4/19- Research Paper presentations
4/24- Research Paper presentations
4/26- Research Paper presentations
5/1- Research Paper presentations
5/3- Research Paper presentations
5/8- Research Paper presentations
5/10- Wrap up (Final Exam Due)

Bibliography

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- Harries, Richard. *Art and the Beauty of God*. London: Mowbray, 1993.
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