



**Apologetic Method PHIL6304  
New Orleans Baptist Theological**

**January 11-15, 2021**

**January 11, 6:00-9:00 p.m. CST**

**January 12-14, 1:00-4:00 p.m. CST**

**January 15, 8:00-11:00 a.m. CST**

**Hardin Student Center 277**

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### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **Course Description**

The course introduces students to methodological issues related to the defense of the Christian worldview. Topics include historical, biblical, theological, cultural, and practical issues that relate to understanding and effectively communicating the Christian worldview. The course focuses upon classroom instruction, reading, research, and writing.

### **Textbooks**

Ken Boa and Robert Bowman. *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*. Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 2006.

Steven B. Cowan, *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: classroom lectures and discussion, reading assignments and book reviews, quizzes over the lectures and the reading, and a research paper.

### **Course Requirements**

**1. Lecture Attendance.** Students are required to attend all workshop lectures. Attendance will be taken in all sessions. Failure to do so will result in additional assignments. For each absence, students must submit an additional book review.

**2. Required Reading.** Students are required to read all of the two required textbooks. Students may not review either of the required books for book reviews. Students will submit a record of their reading over the semester. Failure to do so will impact the grade.

**3. Quizzes.** Quizzes may include material from the class lectures and required reading. The form of the quizzes will be objective. Quizzes will be taken on Blackboard. **All quizzes must be**

completed by 11:59 p.m. February 5, 2021 (3 weeks after the final day of the workshop).

**4. Book Reviews.** Each student is required to review 2 of the following books. **Students may not submit a book review previously reviewed for any other course.** Students may choose which books to review, but the books reviewed must be on the list below.

Each student is required to review 2 of the following books.

1. Avery Dulles, *A History of Apologetics*. New York: Corpus, 1971.
2. John M. Frame, *Cornelius Van Til: An Analysis of His Thought*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995.
3. Douglas Groothuis, *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
4. Donald J. Johnson, *How to Talk to a Skeptic*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2013.
5. Greg Koukl, *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Updated and Expanded. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2019.
6. Gordon Lewis, *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims: Approaches to Christian Apologetics*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1990.
7. Louis Markos, *Apologetics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
8. Alister E. McGrath, *Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths: Building Bridges to Faith Through Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
9. Alister E. McGrath, *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers and Skeptics Find Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
10. Alister E. McGrath, *Narrative Apologetics: Sharing the Relevance, Joy, and Wonder of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2019.
11. Richard Messer, *Does God's Existence Need Proof?* Oxford: Clarendon, 1993.
12. J. Richard Middleton and Brian J. Walsh, *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.
13. Basil Mitchell, *The Justification of Religious Belief*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.
14. John Warwick Montgomery, *Faith Founded on Fact: Essays in Evidential Apologetics*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1978.
15. Randy Newman, *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.
16. Victor Reppert, *C. S. Lewis' Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.
17. Cornelius Van Til and K. Scott Oliphint, *The Defense of the Faith*. Fourth Edition. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2008.
18. Clifford Williams, *Existential Reasons for Belief in God*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2011.

Reviews should include: (1) some professional biographical data concerning the author; (2) a

summary of the book; (3) an assessment of the author's aim or purpose and of the degree of its fulfillment; and (4) a critical evaluation of the book. All grammar and citations in the reviews should follow Turabian form. Reviews should be 4-6 double-spaced pages (which won't be difficult if students include all of the above criteria). **Book Reviews are due 7 weeks after the final day of the workshop (March 5, 2021).**

**5. Apologetics Research Paper.** Each student is required to submit a research paper on a topic related to Christian Apologetics, e.g., science and faith, a non-Christian religion, atheism, argument(s) for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the reliability of Scripture, miracles, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, etc. The paper should be not less than 1,800 words nor more than 3,000 words in length (double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font). Papers must adhere to the Turabian style guide. Students may NOT submit the same paper for this course and another NOBTS course. **Research papers are due 12 weeks after the final day of the workshop (April 9, 2021).**

Here is a rough guide to how research papers will be critiqued.

**A Paper:** Has a clearly stated thesis and demonstrates a *superior* grasp of ideas, arguments, or theories it discusses, and presents very good, clear, and thoughtful arguments, with very few, if any, significant grammatical and/or form and style problems.

**B Paper:** Has a clearly stated thesis and demonstrates a *good* grasp of ideas, arguments, or theories it discusses, presents an argument that exhibits good reasoning, with minimal significant grammatical and/or form and style problems.

**C Paper:** Has a thesis and demonstrates an adequate though perhaps limited understanding of ideas, arguments, or theories it discusses, mixed with a significant number of incorrect claims, presents weak arguments, contains significant grammatical or structural problems.

**D Paper:** Demonstrates significant misunderstandings of factual matters, uses poor logic or fallacious reasoning (if any) to argue points (e.g., merely makes a series of unconnected assertions), fails significantly with respect to technical specifications.

**F Paper:** Failure to submit a paper, a paper that commits plagiarism, or a paper that presents no argumentation.

### Evaluation of Grade

**Grades** will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale: 93-100, A; 85-92, B; 77-84, C; 70-76, D; 0-69, F.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Attendance and Reading	5%
Required Reading	5%
Book Review #1	20%
Book Review #2	20%
Quiz Average	20%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>30%</u>
	100%

## **Technical Assistance**

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

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

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

## **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.

## **NOLA2U LIVE**

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. These courses will require weekly attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf> ).

## Possible Paper Topics

These possible paper topics are general subjects on which students may choose to research and write. Most of them are almost certainly too broad as they are listed below. Therefore students will need to focus upon a particular aspect of a particular apologist's method, such as his/her treatment of the existence of God, the relationship between faith and reason, the problem of evil, etc. A graduate-level research paper should not be a survey of possible options. The list below is not all-inclusive; there are many other possible subjects that students may choose. Students should seek approval and input on their topic from the professors.

A Critical Analysis of the Kalam Cosmological Argument

A Critical Analysis of the Thomas Aquinas's First Way

A Critical Analysis of the Thomas Aquinas's Second Way

A Critical Analysis of the Thomas Aquinas's Third Way

A Critical Analysis of the Thomas Aquinas's Fourth Way

A Critical Analysis of the Thomas Aquinas's Fifth Way

A Critical Analysis of the Leibnitz's Cosmological Argument

A Critical Analysis of the Mortimer Adler's Cosmological Argument

A Critical Analysis of William Paley's Design Argument

A Critical Analysis of William Lane Craig's Moral Argument

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Cornelius Van Til

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of William Lane Craig

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Alvin Plantinga

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of John Warwick Montgomery

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of C. S. Lewis

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Francis Schaeffer

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Norman Geisler

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of R. C. Sproul

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Gary Habermas

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Josh McDowell

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of E. J. Carnell

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Gordon H. Clark

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Augustine of Hippo

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Anselm of Canterbury

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Thomas Aquinas

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Blaise Pascal

A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Irenaeus  
A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Ravi Zacharias  
A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Alister McGrath  
A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Greg Bahnsen  
A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Gregory Boyd  
A Critical Analysis of the Apologetic Method of Brian McLaren

### **Bibliography**

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- Clark, David K. *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Davidson, Andrew. *Imaginative Apologetics: Theology, Philosophy and the Catholic Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Davis, Stephen T., ed. *Encountering Evil: Live Options in Theodicy*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1973.
- . *God, Reason and Theistic Proofs*. Reason and Religion. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Dembski, William A. and Jay Wesley Richards. *Unapologetic Apologetics: Meeting the Challenges of Theological Studies*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001.
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- . *Why Believe? Reason and Mystery as Pointers to God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Forrest, Benjamin K., Joshua D. Chatraw, and Alister E. McGrath. *The History of Apologetics: A Biographical and Methodological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
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- . *Cornelius Van Til: An Analysis of His Thought*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995.
- Ganssle, Gregory E. *Our Deepest Desires: How the Christian Story Fulfills Human Aspirations*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2017.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Thomas Aquinas: An Evangelical Appraisal*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

- Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Updated and Expanded. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.
- Hackett, Stuart C. *The Reconstruction of the Christian Revelation Claim: A Philosophical and Critical Apologetic*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
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- Hoeksema, Herman. *The Clark-Van Til Controversy*. Jefferson, MD: Trinity Foundation, 1995.
- Hoitenga, Dewey J., Jr. *Faith and Reason from Plato to Plantinga: An Introduction to Reformed Epistemology*. Albany: SUNY, 1995.
- Kenny, Anthony. *The Five Ways: St. Thomas Aquinas' Proofs of God's Existence*. New York: Schocken, 1969; reprint, Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame, 1980.
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- Locke, John. *The Reasonableness of Christianity: As Delivered in the Scriptures*. Clarendon Edition of the Works of John Locke. Edited by C. Higgins-Biddle. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- MacDonald, A. J. *Authority and Reason in the Early Middle Ages*. Hulsean Lectures 1931-32. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Mayers, Ronald B. *Balanced Apologetics: Using Evidences and Presuppositions in Defense of the Faith*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1996. Reprint of *Both/And: A Balanced Apologetic*. Chicago: Moody, 1984.
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- McLaren, Brian D. *A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2019.
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- Montgomery, John Warwick. *Faith Founded on Fact: Essays in Evidential Apologetics*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1978.
- Moreland, J. P. *Kingdom Triangle: Recover the Christian Mind, Renovate the Soul, Restore the Spirit's Power*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

- Plantinga, Alvin and Nicholas Wolterstorff, eds. *Faith and Rationality: Reason and Belief in God*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1983.
- Phillips, Timothy R. and Dennis L. Ockholm, eds. *Christian Apologetics in the Postmodern World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.
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- Sweiss, Khaldoun A. and Chad V. Meister. *Christian Apologetics: An Anthology of Primary Sources*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Spitzer, Robert J. *New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013.
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