

THSE8302 – Issues in Baptist Life: Christian Apologetics
Doctor of Ministry Defend the Faith Special Event Seminar
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
January 2-6, 2017

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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 Values and Curriculum Competencies

The primary core values addressed in this seminar are Mission Focus, Doctrinal Integrity, and Characteristic Excellence. The Curriculum Competencies most specifically addressed in the course are Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

This Special Event Seminar is designed to involve students in the analysis and investigation of relevant theological issues pertinent to Baptist life in general and the Southern Baptist Convention in particular. Students will encounter and engage significant theological and ministerial issues through attendance and participation in the conference at the Seminary. The course is designed to promote the importance of theology and the integration of theology for Baptist ministry and church life.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Assess the worldview and apologetic issues in his current ministry context.
2. Articulate a fundamental knowledge of the Christian worldview.
3. Understand and evaluate foundational apologetic approaches to a key issue.
4. Incorporate apologetic tools into one's teaching or preaching ministry.

Textbooks

Required for All

Copan, Paul. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Apologetics Focus:

Choose one of these topic clusters and read all the books listed in that cluster.

Postmodernism Cluster

Loscalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2000.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Truth Decay: How to Defend Christianity against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Middleton, J. Richard, and Brian J. Walsh. *Truth Is Stranger than It Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.

Problem of Evil and Suffering Cluster

- Carson, D. A. *How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.
- Claypool, John. *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler: How to Handle Grief*. Waco: Word, 1974.
- Lewis, C. S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York: Macmillan, 1977.
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *Lament for a Son*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
- Yancey, Philip. *Where Is God When It Hurts?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977.

New Atheism Cluster

- Stewart, Robert, ed. *The Future of Atheism: Alister McGrath and Daniel Dennett in Dialogue*. Minneapolis and London: Fortress and SPCK, October 2008.
- _____. *The Existence of God in Light of Contemporary Cosmology: William Lane Craig and Sean Carroll in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016.
- McGrath, Alister and Joanna Collicutt. *The Dawkins Delusion? Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2010.

Theology/Soteriology Cluster

- Lemke, Steve, with David Allen. *Whosoever Will: A Theological-Biblical Critique of Five Point Calvinism*. Nashville: B&H, 2011.
- Choose any two of the following:
- Olson, Roger. *Against Calvinism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Horton, Michael. *For Calvinism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.
- Picirilli, Robert. *Grace, Faith, and Free Will. Contrasting Views of Salvation: Calvinism and Arminianism*. Nashville: Randall House, 2002.
- Walls, Jerry, and Joseph Dongell. *Why I Am Not a Calvinist*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.
- Peterson, Robert A., and Michael Williams. *Why I Am Not an Arminian*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2010.
- Olson, Roger. *Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2009.
- Stewart, Kenneth J. *Ten Myths about Calvinism: Recovering the Breadth of the Reformed Tradition*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
- Fischer, Austin. *Young, Restless, No Longer Reformed: Black Holes, Love, and a Journey In and Out of Calvinism*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2014.
- Keathley, Kenneth. *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach*. Nashville: B&H, 2011.
- Osborne, Grant, with Carl Trueman and John Hammett. *Three Views of the Extent of the Atonement*, ed. Andrew Naselli and Mark Snoeberger. Nashville: B&H, 2014.
- Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2011.
- Allen, David, Adam Harwood, and Eric Hankins, eds. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2016.

Course Requirements

Pre-class Assignments, 50 points each (due Tuesday, January 3)

- Two book reviews -- Read the Copan text and one of the books from the topic cluster you choose, and prepare written reviews of these two books. Each review should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs). Your reviews should reflect a serious reading of the texts and a careful analysis of their content, including the following:
 - Brief biographical sketch of author(s) (a paragraph)
 - Author's purpose and thesis (a paragraph)
 - Summary of contents, purpose, thesis, and major arguments of the books (4 pages)

- Significant teachings or insights (half page)
- Strengths and weaknesses (half page)
- Points that can be addressed in preaching or teaching (paragraph)
- 3-5 questions related to the book for seminar discussion (paragraph)

Defend the Faith Conference Participation, 50 points (due Monday, January 23)

Since you signed up for this Defend the Faith special event seminar on Apologetic Preaching, we assume that you wanted to attend the Defend the Faith Apologetics conference. The conference will provide a rich resource for some of your areas of interest in Apologetics. Note that registration for the conference is separate from registration for the course. The conference is Monday, January 2 through Friday, January 7. However, you are not required to attend all of the conference. You will have release time to attend the conference all day Monday and Friday, as well as Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and all the night sessions. However, if your ministry schedule does not permit you to attend more of the conference, we have arranged for you to attend the plenary sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning and evenings at no additional cost. To register and for more information about the conference, go to <http://nobtsapologetics.com/defendthefaitth/>. We have secured a special discounted ProDoc rate for you of \$50 for the entire week, or free for the sessions we're not in class Tuesday through Thursday. You are required to be in each of our scheduled seminar sessions 1:00-5:00 Tuesday through Thursday.

- **Attend all three ProDoc seminar sessions (1/3-5)**
Dr. Lemke will be making some presentations, and we will be discussing your insights from the texts that you read and the sessions you are attending. The required class meetings are:
 - 1:00-5:00 on Tuesday, January 3,
 - 1:00-5:00 on Wednesday, January 4, and
 - 1:00-5:00 on Thursday, January 4
- **Session notes – Due 1/23 – 25 points**
Take notes on *any five* of the Defend the Faith plenary or breakout sessions besides our class (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, and
 - (b) your brief evaluation of the relevance of the issue in your ministry setting.

Ministry Contextual Analysis, due February 15th, 50 points

- Prepare an analysis of your current ministry setting. The analysis should identify specific apologetic issues in your context. This will include issues relative to both your congregation and your community that need to be addressed with apologetics. For example, someone living in Salt Lake City would identify Mormonism in general and the person and work of Jesus in particular. Someone living in San Francisco might identify human sexuality and the definition of marriage as relevant issues. You will want to identify those issues affecting your context, whether they are unique to your context (such as a local cultic movement) or of a more general nature (moral relativism). Then suggest what you could do in preaching or teaching to address these questions. The analysis should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced).

Apologetics Focus Book Reviews, due March 1st, 50 points each

- Read the remaining textbooks listed in your Apologetics focus area you have chosen, and prepare written reviews of these books. Each review should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs). Your reviews should reflect a serious reading of the texts and a careful analysis of their content, the same as described in the prior book review assignment.

Grading

The assignments will be graded according to the Seminary-wide grading scale, i.e., A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 77-84, D = 70-76, F = below 70.

Selected Apologetics Bibliography

Beckwith, Francis J. and Gregory Koukl. *Relativism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York: Free Press, 1996.

Boa, Kenneth D. and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001), 19.

Bloom, Allan. *The Closing of the American Mind*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987.

Budzeszewski, J. *Written on the Heart*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Bush, L. Russ. *Classical Readings in Christian Apologetics: A.D. 100-1800*. Grand Rapids: Academic Books, 1983.

Campolo, Anthony. *A Reasonable Faith: Responding to Secularism*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1983.

Caputo, John D. *Deconstruction in a Nutshell: A Conversation with Jacques Derrida*. New York: Fordham University Press, 1997.

Chang, Curtis. *Engaging Unbelief*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Chappell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

Clark, David. *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.

Clark, Kelly James, ed. *Philosophers Who Believe*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.

Clarke, Andrew and Bruce W. Winter. *One God, One Lord: Christianity in a World of Religious Pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Paternoster Press, 1992.

Clendenin, Daniel. *Many Gods, Many Lords: Christianity Encounters World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

Colson, Chuck and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1999.

Copan, Paul. *True For You, But Not For Me: Deflating the Slogans that Leave Christians Speechless.* Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998.

_____. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Corduan, Winifried. *Reasonable Faith.* Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.

Craig: William Lane. *No Easy Answers: Finding Hope in Doubt, Failure and Unanswered Prayer.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

_____. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1994.

Crockett, William V. and James G. Signountos., ed. *Through No Fault of Their Own? The Fate of Those Who Have Never Heard.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1991.

Dembski, William A. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology.* Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1999.

Dockery, David S. *The Challenge of Postmodernism.* Edited by David S. Dockery. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

Dodd, C.H. *The Apostolic Preaching and its Developments.* London: Hodder and Stoughton Limited, 1936.

Dyrness, William. *Christian Apologetics in a World Community.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983.

Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical Responses to the Challenge of Postmodernism.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

_____. *Truth or Consequences.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Biblical Sermons that Connect with Our Culture.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Fackre, Gabriel, Ronald H. Nash, and John Sanders. *What About Those Who Have Never Heard? Three Views on the Destiny of the Unevangelized.* Illinois: InterVarsity, 1995.

Fish, Stanley. *Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980.

_____. *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Fredericks, James L. *Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions.*

- New York: Paulist Press, 1999.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1988.
- Gibson, Scott, ed. *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Griffin, Em. *The Mind Changers*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1986.
- Groothuis, Douglas. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.
- _____. *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Guinness, Os. *Doubt: Faith in Two Minds*, 2d ed. Glasgow: Collins, 1983.
- Habermas, Gary. *Dealing with Doubt*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.
- Halverson, Dean, ed. *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1996.
- Hick, John. *God Has Many Names*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1982.
- _____. *An Interpretation of Religion*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.
- Kallenberg, Brad. *Live to Tell: Evangelism in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2002.
- Keller, Tim. *The Reason for God*. New York: Penguin, 2004.
- Knitter, Paul F. *Jesus and the Other Names: Christian Mission and Global Responsibility*. New York: Orbis Books, 1996.
- Kreeft, Peter. *Three Philosophies of Life*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.
- Kreeft, Peter, and Ronald K. Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1994.
- Larsen, David. *The Evangelism Mandate: Recovering the Centrality of Gospel Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1992.
- Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.

- Lightner, Robert P. *The God of the Bible and Other Gods: Is the Christian God unique among World Religions?* Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1998.
- Little, Paul E. *Know Why You Believe.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1968.
- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Apologetic Preaching.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Mayers, Ronald B. *Both/And: A Balanced Apologetic.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1984.
- McDermott, Gerald R. *Can Evangelicals Learn From World Religions? Jesus, Revelation and Religious Traditions.* Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- McDowell, Josh. *More than a Carpenter.* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1987.
- McGrath, Alister. *Intellectuals Don't Need God: And Other Modern Myths.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- Miller, Calvin. *Marketplace Preaching.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.
- Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. *He is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World.* Chicago: Moody, 2008.
- Montgomery, John Warwick. *Faith Founded on Fact: Essays in Evidential Apologetics.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1978.
- Moreland, J.P. *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- Netland, Harold A. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1991.
- Okholm, Dennis and Timothy R. Phillips, Ed. *More Than One Way? Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Petersen, Jim. *Living Proof: Sharing the Gospel Naturally.* Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1989.
- Pinnock, Clark. *Are There Any Answers?* Minneapolis: Dimension Books, 1972.
- _____. *A Case for Faith.* Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1980.
- _____. *Live Now, Brother.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.
- Ramm, Bernard. *Varieties of Christian Apologetics.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1961.
- Reid, J.K.S. *Christian Apologetics.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1969.

- Richard, Ramesh P. *The Population of Heaven: The Biblical Response to the Inclusivist Position on Who Will be Saved*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.
- Rommen, Edward and Harold Netland, ed. *Christianity and the Religions*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995.
- Sanders, John. *No Other Name: An Investigation into the Destiny of the Unevangelized*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Schaeffer, Francis August. *Escape From Reason*. London: InterVarsity Press, 1968.
- Sproul, R. C. *Reason to Believe*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978.
- Stackhouse, John G., Jr. *Humble Apologetics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Stott, John. *You Can Trust The Bible*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 1982.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Thompson, James. *Preaching Like Paul*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Van Till, Cornelius. *Apologetics*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1976.
- Watson, F. *The Defenders of the Faith*. New York: Pott, Young, and Co., 1920.
- Zacharias, Ravi and Norman Geisler, eds. *Is Your Church Ready?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.