

# **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

---

## **Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion–PHIL 5300**

Spring 2010

Mr. Wade Howell  
wadehowelljr@yahoo.com

### **NOBTS Mission:**

To equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Course Description (From Catalog)**

#### **PHIL5300 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (3 hours)**

A philosophical examination of fundamental religious beliefs and concepts with primary focus on the claims and warrants of Christian theism. Lectures and readings address classical and contemporary perspectives on the relationship of faith and reason, the nature of religious language, arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, the nature and persistence of evil, miracles, death and immortality, and the relationships of Christianity and other religious traditions. The course constitutes a call to intellectual accountability in relation to issues of ultimate concern to Christian faith.

### **Course Objectives**

*By the end of this course the student should:*

*Utilize* philosophical concepts and arguments in the discussion of religious topics.

*Value* philosophy as it relates to life and Christian Ministry.

*Develop* sound arguments for and critiques of religious and philosophical perspectives.

### **Assignments**

#### **Chapter Questions (32%):**

Fully answer (in two to six paragraphs) the questions for each chapter. In *The Love of Wisdom* the questions are located in the chapters. I will provide the questions for the chapters in *Philosophy of Religion*. We will discuss these questions, and more specifically your answers to these questions, in class each session. I will collect and grade your questions each session and you will keep a copy of the questions in your Philosophy Notebook.

#### **Philosophy Notebook (12%):**

Each student will keep a printed copy of their notes for the course along with handouts, copies of articles or other resources accessed in their research, and their own handwritten additions. Notebooks will be due on the last day of class.

#### **Quizzes (12%):**

Quizzes will be given to assess student understanding and retention of assigned vocabulary.

#### **Case Studies (24%):**

Each class session will include one or more case studies that will be discussed by the entire class. During the discussions students should make notes of the issues raised and how to respond to them in a ministry context. Each student will write a brief personal response to the case study and keep a copy of it in their philosophy notebook.

### **Class Participation (12%):**

Participation in the class, individually and as a group, is essential and required. Failure to participate will result in the reduction of the final grade.

### **Personal Reflection Paper (8%):**

Each student will submit a one to two page reflection on Philosophy of Religion.

## **Class Policies**

### **Writing Guide:**

The official writing guide for the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is the approved edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian. Book reviews and Guided Research Papers are expected to conform to Turabian in matters of style.

### **Late Work:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. Late work will not be accepted. If you are unable to complete your work on time, contact me and explain the situation. I may grant you additional time. Late work will not be accepted without prior approval (approval prior to the due date) and you will receive no credit for the work.

### **Absences:**

Attendance is required. The absence policy in the current New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog (2009-10 page 152) will be enforced.

### **Computer and Electronic Device Use:**

Computer and other electronic devices will not be used in the classroom when class is in session.

## **Grading**

### **Grading Scale**

<b><u>Assignment</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Points</u></b>
Chapter Questions	32
Philosophy Notebook	12
Quizzes	12
Case Studies	24
Class Participation	12
Personal Reflection Paper	8
Total Possible Points	100

Final Grades will be assessed according to current New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog (2009-10 page 153).

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit may be available during the semester. Contact me if you are interested in doing extra credit work.

## **Textbooks**

### **Required Texts**

*Philosophy of Religion* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. By C. Stephen Evans & R. Zachary Manis. This book is published by IVP Academic and is one of our two primary texts. The version you need is the Second edition, published in 2009. We will read and discuss all of this book.

*The Love of Wisdom: A Christian Introduction to Philosophy* by Steven B. Cowan and James S. Spiegel. This book is published by B&H Academic and is the second of our primary texts. We will read and discuss about one half of this book.

## Class Schedule

This course will rely heavily on instructor guided discussion. Meaningful participation in the discussion is required. We will examine the philosophical topics and how they relate to the Bible, theology, the Church, and ministry. Case studies will be used to enrich student understanding of the topic and explore practical ministry application.

1. January 25, 2010: Introductory Session–Getting Started
  - a. Syllabus and Expectations
  - b. *The Love of Wisdom*, Introduction & Chapter 1
  - c. *Philosophy of Religion* Chapter 1
  - d. Case Studies
2. February 8: Worldview and Arguments for God’s Existence
  - a. Worldview Reading Assignment
  - b. *Philosophy of Religion* Chapter 2 & 3
  - c. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 6 [6.1 & 6.2 only]
  - d. Case Studies
3. February 22: Religious Experience and God Talk
  - a. *Philosophy of Religion* Chapter 4
  - b. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 4
  - c. Religious Language Reading Assignment
  - d. Case Studies
4. March 8: Christianity and the Rest of the World
  - a. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 6 [6.4.1 only]
  - b. Christianity and Claims of Exclusivity Reading Assignment
  - c. Case Studies
5. March 29: Evil
  - a. *Philosophy of Religion* Chapter 7
  - b. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 6 [6.3 only]
  - c. Case Studies
6. April 12: Miracles and Humanity
  - a. *Philosophy of Religion* Chapter 5
  - b. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 5 & 6 [6.4.2 only]
  - c. Case Studies
7. April 26: Faith and Reason
  - a. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 2
  - b. *Philosophy of Religion* Chapter 8
  - c. Case Studies
8. May 3: Philosophy of Religion and the Rest of the World
  - a. *The Love of Wisdom* Chapter 3
  - b. Case Studies

# Spring Semester Bible Reading Plan

## January 19, 2010 – May 15, 2010

### JANUARY

- 19 1 Samuel 13:23-14:52, John 5:1-23, Psalm 64:1-6, Proverbs 14:5-7
- 20 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23, John 5:24-47, Psalm 64:7-10, Proverbs 14:8-9
- 21 1 Samuel 17:1-58, John 6:1-21, Psalm 65:1-8, Proverbs 14:10-12
- 22 1 Samuel 18:1-19:24, John 6:22-40, Psalm 65:9-13, Proverbs 14:13-14
- 23 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15, John 6:41-59, Psalm 66:1-7, Proverbs 14:15-16
- 24 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29, John 6:60-7:9, Psalm 66:8-15, Proverbs 14:17-19
- 25 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44, John 7:10-30, Psalm 66:16-20, Proverbs 14:20-22
- 26 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25, John 7:31-53, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 14:23-25
- 27 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13, John 8:1-20, Psalm 68:1-6, Proverbs 14:26-28
- 28 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32, John 8:21-41, Psalm 68:7-14, Proverbs 14:29-30
- 29 2 Samuel 3:1-4:12, John 8:42-9:7, Psalm 68:15-19, Proverbs 14:31-32
- 30 2 Samuel 5:1-6:23, John 9:8-27, Psalm 68:20-27, Proverbs 14:33-35
- 31 2 Samuel 7:1-9:13, John 9:28-10:6, Psalm 68:28-31, Proverbs 15:1-3

### FEBRUARY

- 1 2 Samuel 10:1-11:27, John 10:7-30, Psalm 68:32-35, Proverbs 15:4-5
- 2 2 Samuel 12:1-13:39, John 10:31-11:6, Psalm 69:1-4, Proverbs 15:6-7
- 3 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37, John 11:7-20, Psalm 69:5-12, Proverbs 15:8-9
- 4 2 Samuel 16:1-17:29, John 11:21-44, Psalm 69:13-18, Proverbs 15:10-11
- 5 2 Samuel 18:1-19:23, John 11:45-12:11, Psalm 69:19-28, Proverbs 15:12-13
- 6 2 Samuel 19:24-21:22, John 12:12-33, Psalm 69:29-36, Proverbs 15:14-15
- 7 2 Samuel 22:1-23:7, John 12:34-13:11, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 15:16-17
- 8 2 Samuel 23:8-24:25, John 13:12-38, Psalm 71:1-8, Proverbs 15:18-19
- 9 1 Kings 1:1-53, John 14:1-21, Psalm 71:9-16, Proverbs 15:20-21
- 10 1 Kings 2:1-46, John 14:22-15:10, Psalm 71:17-24, Proverbs 15:22-23
- 11 1 Kings 3:1-4:34, John 15:11-16:4, Psalm 72:1-7, Proverbs 15:24-25
- 12 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, John 16:5-33, Psalm 72:8-14, Proverbs 15:26-27
- 13 1 Kings 7:1-51, John 17:1-26, Psalm 72:15-20, Proverbs 15:28-29
- 14 1 Kings 8:1-66, John 18:1-23, Psalm 73:1-6, Proverbs 15:30-31
- 15 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, John 18:24-19:3, Psalm 73:7-12, Proverbs 15:32-33
- 16 1 Kings 11:1-12:11, John 19:4-24, Psalm 73:13-20, Proverbs 16:1-2
- 17 1 Kings 12:12-13:34, John 19:25-42, Psalm 73:21-28, Proverbs 16:3-4
- 18 1 Kings 14:1-15:34, John 20:1-20, Psalm 74:1-6, Proverbs 16:5-7
- 19 1 Kings 16:1-17:24, John 20:21-21:9, Psalm 74:7-11, Proverbs 16:8-10
- 20 1 Kings 18:1-46, John 21:10-25, Psalm 74:12-17, Proverbs 16:11-12
- 21 1 Kings 19:1-20:43, Acts 1:1-26, Psalm 74:18-23, Proverbs 16:13-15
- 22 1 Kings 21:1-22:23, Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 16:16-17
- 23 1 Kings 22:24- 2 Kings 1:18, Acts 2:22-47, Psalm 76:1-6, Proverbs 16:18-19
- 24 2 Kings 2:1-3:27, Acts 3:1-26, Psalm 76:7-12, Proverbs 16:20
- 25 2 Kings 4:1-5:14, Acts 4:1-22, Psalm 77:1-6, Proverbs 16:21-22
- 26 2 Kings 5:15-7:9, Acts 4:23-5:11, Psalm 77:7-12, Proverbs 16:23-24

- 27 2 Kings 7:10-9:13, Acts 5:12-32, Psalm 77:13-20, Proverbs 16:25-26  
 28 2 Kings 9:14-10:36, Acts 5:33-6:15, Psalm 78:1-8, Proverbs 16:27-28

### MARCH

- 1 2 Kings 11:1-13:9, Acts 7:1-22, Psalm 78:9-16, Proverbs 16:29-30  
 2 2 Kings 13:10-15:15, Acts 7:23-43, Psalm 78:17-22, Proverbs 16:31-33  
 3 2 Kings 15:16-16:20, Acts 7:44-8:13, Psalm 78:23-31, Proverbs 17:1-2  
 4 2 Kings 17:1-41, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 78:32-39, Proverbs 17:3-4  
 5 2 Kings Ki 18:1-19:19, Acts 9:1-22, Psalm 78:40-47, Proverbs 17:5-6  
 6 2 Kings 19:20-21:26, Acts 9:23-43, Psalm 78:48-55, Proverbs 17:7-8  
 7 2 Kings 22:1-23:37, Acts 10:1-23, Psalm 78:56-64, Proverbs 17:9-10  
 8 2 Kings 24:25:30, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 78:65-72, Proverbs 17:11-12  
 9 1 Chronicles 1:1-2:2, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 79:1-8, Proverbs 17:13-14  
 10 1 Chronicles 2:3-55, Acts 12:1-25, Psalm 79:9-13, Proverbs 17:15-16  
 11 1 Chronicles 3:1-4:43, Acts 13:1-22, Psalm 80:1-7, Proverbs 17:17  
 12 1 Chronicles 5:1-6:32, Acts 13:23-41, Psalm 80:8-13, Proverbs 17:18-19  
 13 1 Chronicles 6:33-81, Acts 13:42-14:7, Psalm 80:14-19, Proverbs 17:20-21  
 14 1 Chronicles 7:1-8:28, Acts 14:8-28, Psalm 81:1-7, Proverbs 17:22-23  
 15 1 Chronicles 8:29-9:44, Acts 15:1-21, Psalm 81:8-16, Proverbs 17:24-25  
 16 1 Chronicles 10:1-11:47, Acts 15:22-41, Psalm 82:1-8, Proverbs 17:26  
 17 1 Chronicles 12:1-13:14, Acts 16:1-24, Psalm 83:1-8, Proverbs 17:27-28  
 18 1 Chronicles 14:1-16:6, Acts 16:25-17:9, Psalm 83:9-18, Proverbs 18:1-3  
 19 1 Chronicles 16:7-17:15, Acts 17:10-34, Psalm 84:1-12, Proverbs 18:4-5  
 20 1 Chronicles 17:16-20:8, Acts 18:1-23, Psalm 85:1-7, Proverbs 18:6-8  
 21 1 Chronicles 21:1-23:13, Acts 18:24-19:20, Psalm 85:8-13, Proverbs 18:9-11  
 22 1 Chronicles 23:14-24:31, Acts 19:21-41, Psalm 86:1-10, Proverbs 18:12-13  
 23 1 Chronicles 25:1-26:32, Acts 20:1-21, Psalm 86:11-17, Proverbs 18:14-15  
 24 1 Chronicles 27:1-28:21, Acts 20:22-21:6, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 18:16-17  
 25 1 Chronicles 29:1- 2 Chronicles 1:17, Acts 21:7-29, Psalm 88:1-9, Proverbs 18:18-19  
 26 2 Chronicles 2:1-4:22, Acts 21:30-22:10, Psalm 88:10-18, Proverbs 18:20-21  
 27 2 Chronicles 5:1-6:42, Acts 22:11-30, Psalm 89:1-10, Proverbs 18:22  
 28 2 Chronicles 7:1-8:18, Acts 23:1-22, Psalm 89:11-18, Proverbs 18:23-24  
 29 2 Chronicles 9:1-10:19, Acts 23:23-24:9, Psalm 89:19-29, Proverbs 19:1-3  
 30 2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22, Acts 24:10-27, Psalm 89:30-37, Proverbs 19:4-5  
 31 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14, Acts 25:1-22, Psalm 89:38-45, Proverbs 19:6-7

### APRIL

- 1 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34, Acts 25:23-26:18, Psalm 89:46-52, Proverbs 19:8-9  
 2 2 Chronicles 19:1-21:11, Acts 26:19-27:8, Psalm 90:1-12, Proverbs 19:10-12  
 3 2 Chronicles 21:12-24:16, Acts 27:9-29, Psalm 90:13-17, Proverbs 19:13-14  
 4 2 Chronicles 24:17-26:23, Acts 27:30-28:10, Psalm 91:1-8, Proverbs 19:15-16  
 5 2 Chronicles 27:1-29:17, Acts 28:11-31, Psalm 91:9-16, Proverbs 19:17  
 6 2 Chronicles 29:18-31:10, Romans 1:1-23, Psalm 92:1-7, Proverbs 19:18-19  
 7 2 Chronicles 31:11-33:13, Romans 1:24-2:16, Psalm 92:8-15, Proverbs 19:20-21  
 8 2 Chronicles 33:14-35:15, Romans 2:17-3:8, Psalm 93:1-5, Proverbs 19:22-23  
 9 2 Chronicles 35:16- Ezra 1:1-11, Romans 3:9-31, Psalm 94:1-11, Proverbs 19:24-25  
 10 Ezra 2:1-70, Romans 4:1-25, Psalm 94:12-23, Proverbs 19:26-27

11 Ezra 3:1-5:17, Romans 5:1-21, Psalm 95:1-11, Proverbs 19:28-29  
 12 Ezra 6:1-7:28, Romans 6:1-23, Psalm 96:1-9, Proverbs 20:1  
 13 Ezra 8:1-9:15, Romans 7:1-25, Psalm 96:10-13, Proverbs 20:2-3  
 14 Ezra 10:1- Nehemiah 1:11, Romans 8:1-25, Psalm 97:1-6, Proverbs 20:4-6  
 15 Nehemiah 2:1-3:32, Romans 8:26-9:5, Psalm 97:7-12, Proverbs 20:7-9  
 16 Nehemiah 4:1-6:19, Romans 9:6-29, Psalm 98:1-9, Proverbs 20:10-12  
 17 Nehemiah 7:1-60, Romans 9:30-10:21, Psalm 99:1-9, Proverbs 20:13-15  
 18 Nehemiah 7:61-9:38, Romans 11:1-21, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 20:16-18  
 19 Nehemiah 10:1-11:19, Romans 11:22-12:7, Psalm 101:1-8, Proverbs 20:19-21  
 20 Nehemiah 11:20-12:47, Romans 12:8-13:7, Psalm 102:1-11, Proverbs 20:22-23  
 21 Nehemiah 13:1 - Esther 1:22, Romans 13:8-14:12, Psalm 102:12-17, Proverbs 20:24-25  
 22 Esther 2:1-4:17, Romans 14:13-15:13, Psalm 102:18-22, Proverbs 20:26-27  
 23 Esther 5:1-7:10, Romans 15:14-33, Psalm 102:23-28, Proverbs 20:28-30  
 24 Esther 8:1-10:3, Romans 16:1-27, Psalm 103:1-5, Proverbs 21:1-3  
 25 Job 1:1-3:26, 1 Corinthians 1:1-19, Psalm 103:6-14, Proverbs 21:4-5  
 26 Job 4:1-6:10, 1 Corinthians 1:20-2:9, Psalm 103:15-22, Proverbs 21:6-7  
 27 Job 6:11-8:22, 1 Corinthians 2:10-3:15, Psalm 104:1-9, Proverbs 21:8-9  
 28 Job 9:1-10:22, 1 Corinthians 3:16-4:13, Psalm 104:10-15, Proverbs 21:10-11  
 29 Job 11:1-13:12, 1 Corinthians 4:14-5:13, Psalm 104:16-23, Proverbs 21:12-14  
 30 Job 13:13-15:13, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 104:24-30, Proverbs 21:15-16

#### MAY

1 Job 15:14-17:16, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 104:31-35, Proverbs 21:17-19  
 2 Job 18:1-20:11, 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Psalm 105:1-6, Proverbs 21:20-21  
 3 Job 20:12-21:34, 1 Corinthians 8:1-9:12, Psalm 105:7-15, Proverbs 21:22-24  
 4 Job 22:1-24:12, 1 Corinthians 9:13-10:5, Psalm 105:16-27, Proverbs 21:25-26  
 5 Job 24:13-27:23, 1 Corinthians 10:6-24, Psalm 105:28-36, Proverbs 21:27-28  
 6 Job 28:1-30:8, 1 Corinthians 10:25-11:16, Psalm 105:37-45, Proverbs 21:29-31  
 7 Job 30:9-31:40, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Psalm 106:1-12, Proverbs 22:1-2  
 8 Job 32:1-33:33, 1 Corinthians 12:1-20, Psalm 106:13-23, Proverbs 22:3-4  
 9 Job 34:1-35:16, 1 Corinthians 12:21-13:13, Psalm 106:24-31, Proverbs 22:5-6  
 10 Job 36:1-37:24, 1 Corinthians 14:1-25, Psalm 106:32-39, Proverbs 22:7-8  
 11 Job 38:1-39:12, 1 Corinthians 14:26-15:11, Psalm 106:40-48, Proverbs 22:9-10  
 12 Job 39:13-40:24, 1 Corinthians 15:12-34, Psalm 107:1-9, Proverbs 22:11-12  
 13 Job 41:1-42:17, 1 Corinthians 15:35-58, Psalm 107:10-16, Proverbs 22:13-14  
 14 Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:8, 1 Corinthians 16:1-24, Psalm 107:17-22, Proverbs 22:15-16  
 15 Ecclesiastes 3:9-6:12, 2 Corinthians 1:1-22, Psalm 107:23-32, Proverbs 22:17-19