



PHIL 5301 Christian Apologetics
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theology & History
July 2020

Note: Please contact my assistant, Josh Hagans, for all Blackboard-related questions and me for all content-related questions. ALWAYS include your name, Student ID, and Course Code (PHIL 5301) in every email.

Professor's Name: James K. Dew, Jr., Ph.D.

Title: President

Professor of Christian Philosophy

Office: President's Office, 2nd floor of Frost Bldg.

Phone: (504) 282-4455 x3327

Email: jdew@nobts.edu

Teaching Assistant: Josh Hagans (joshah925@gmail.com)

Admin. Assistant: Robbin Phelps (rphelps@nobts.edu)

Mission Statement

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

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. 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. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Spiritual Vitality**.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course is: Discipleship Making

Course Description

This course examines barriers to Christian faith as well as efforts to provide convincing presentations of Christian faith. Attention is given to biblical foundations, historical development, apologetic method, and contemporary issues related to apologetics.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this courses, students will be able to:

1. Examine, reconstruct, and assess traditional ways the Christian faith has been defended.
2. Explain and defend intellectually responsible answers to objections to Christian faith.
3. Explain and defend biblically faithful answers to objections to Christian faith.

Course Textbooks

1. Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2011).
2. Steven B. Cowan, *Five Views on Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).
3. Paul M. Gould, *Cultural Apologetics: Renewing the Christian Voice, Conscience, and Imagination in a Disenchanted World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019).

Course Requirements:

1. **Quizzes (20% of Grade):** There are 33 quizzes for this course, 20 for the lectures and 13 for the readings. Students will complete a short quiz for each day's lectures and for every individual reading assignment. All content for the course is cumulative, which means you will need to be able to recall everything studied for previous quizzes and exams. Each quiz is short, consisting of 6 questions. The first question is true or false, "I completed the reading/watched the lectures", and is worth 50 points on that quiz. The remaining 5 questions are either true/false or are multiple choice worth 10 points each. All quizzes (reading and lecture) will close on Sunday night at 11:59 PM for that week. Students are free to take the quizzes any time before they close, but once they close they will not be re-opened. Since students have at least 7 days to take the quizzes, there are no make-ups, even for bad situations. All quizzes are closed book, but open note. So, feel free to take good notes from both the lectures and the reading and you can use that material in the quizzes. But be careful not to rely too heavily on these notes as you will have a short period of time to take the quiz (5 minutes).
2. **Exams (40% of Grade):** There is a mid-term and a final exam in this course. They are averaged together for 40% of the final grade (20% for each). The exams are objective (true/false, multiple choice, etc.). The material on the exams will be very similar to the material for the quizzes. So, by taking so many quizzes, and by seeing material repeatedly, students that do well on the quizzes should be well-prepared for the exams. Each exam is open for one week. Once it is closed it cannot be reopened. The exams are closed book, but open note. The exams are closed book, but open note. You may use whatever notes you take over the lectures and from the readings.
3. **Weekly Discussion (15% of Grade):** Each week there will be two live Bluejeans meetings that last one hour, 8 total meetings. Students are required to attend at least 4. Students can attend via Bluejeans, or if we are allowed to do face-to-face at that time, students may be present with me in the classroom I'm facilitating the Bluejeans meeting (at least for the weeks I'm in town). The design of these meetings is to facilitate discussion, not for me to bring new material. There will be no lecture, so you must come prepared with questions and with discussion.

Students that merely attend but do not participate will not receive the 15% for their final grade. You want points, you need to talk!

4. **Research Paper (20% of Grade):** Students are expected to write a research paper of 10-12 pages (12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced). This is an argumentative paper and the student is required to argue a thesis throughout the paper. The student should not simply summarize and survey an issue. The student must pick a topic and argue a clear thesis. After a short introduction (absolutely no more than 1 page) to the research question and stating the thesis of the paper, the student should spend somewhere between 1/2 to 2/3 of the paper providing reasons to support the position taken in the paper. The remaining 1/2 to 1/3 of the paper should be given to addressing objections to the student's argument provided in the first part of the paper. As the lectures in this course are largely introductory, the student's paper should go significantly beyond the lecture, and incorporate your own thoughts, reflections, and responses. Students should incorporate no less that 12 (non-textbook, Bible, Dictionary) resources in the paper.
5. **Book Review (5% of Grade):** Students will write a 5-page review of Paul Gould's Cultural Apologetics. Students should spend no more than 1 page summarizing the book. The remaining 4/5 of the review should critically interact with the content of the book.

Grading Scale:

- A=100-93
- B=92-85
- C=84-77
- D=76-70
- F=69-0

Course Schedule:

Week 1/Unit 1			
Apologetic Method, Worldview & The Existence of God			
Monday/Sub-Unit 1.1 July 6	Lecture 1: Apologetic Methodology Lecture 2: Faith & Reason	Reading 1: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 25-89; & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 15-72	Quiz on Lectures 1 & 2 Quiz on Reading 1: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 25-89; & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 15-72
Tuesday/Sub-Unit 1.2 July 7	Lecture 3: The Role of Logic Lecture 4: Kinds of Inference		Quiz on Lectures 3 & 4
Wednesday/Sub-Unit 1.3 July 8	Lecture 5: What Are Worldviews & How Do They Form? Lecture 6: How Do We Evaluate Worldviews?	Reading 2: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 73-116	Quiz on Lectures 5 & 6 Quiz on Reading 2: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 73-116 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #1
Thursday/Sub-Unit 1.4 July 9	Lecture 7: The Existence of God—Cosmological Arguments Lecture 8: The	Reading 3: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 117-167, p. 330-363	Quiz on Lectures 7 & 8 Quiz on Reading 3: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 117-167, p. 330-363

	Existence of God— Teleological Arguments		
Friday/Sub-Unit 1.5 July 10	Lecture 9: The Existence of God— Moral Arguments Lecture 10: The Existence of God— Ontological Arguments		Quiz on Lectures 9 & 10 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #2
Week 2/Unit 2	The Existence of God, The Resurrection of Jesus & The Bible		
Monday/Sub- Unit 2.1 July 13	Lecture 11: The Existence of God— Arguments from Religious Experience Lecture 12: The Existence of God— Arguments from Meaning & Information	Reading 4: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 171-265, p. 364-388	Quiz on Lectures 11 & 12 Quiz on Reading 4: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 171-265, p. 364-388
Tuesday/Sub- Unit 2.2 July 14	Lecture 13: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 1 Lecture 14: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 2	Reading 5: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 91-145 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 475-526	Quiz on Lectures 13 & 14 Quiz on Reading 5: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 91-145 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 475-526
Wednesday/Sub- Unit 2.3 July 15	Lecture 15: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 3 Lecture 16: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 4	Reading 6: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 527-563	Quiz on Lectures 15 & 16 Quiz on Reading 6: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 527-563 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #3
Thursday/Sub- Unit 2.4 July 16	Lecture 17: Why Do We Trust the Bible? Lecture 18: What Does Jesus Say About the Bible?		Quiz on Lectures 17 & 18
Friday/Sub-Unit 2.5 July 17	Lecture 19: The Bible's Formation and Preservation	Reading 7: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 438-474	Quiz on Lecture 19 Quiz on Reading 7: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 438-474 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew

			#4
Week 3/Unit 3	Science, Miracles & Life After Death		
Monday/Sub-Unit 3.1 July 20	Lecture 20: The Relationship of Theology & Science Lecture 21: The Shared Assumptions of Theology & Science	Reading 8: <i>Christian Apologetics</i>, p. 266-329	Quiz on Lectures 20 & 21 Quiz on Reading 8: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 266-329
Tuesday/Sub-Unit 3.2 July 21	Lecture 22: Are Miracles Really Possible?—Part 1 Lecture 23: Are Miracles Really Possible?—Part 2	Reading 9: <i>Five Views</i>, p. 148-206	Quiz on Lectures 22 & 23 Quiz on Reading 9: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 148-206
Wednesday/Sub-Unit 3.3 July 22	Lecture 24: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 1 Lecture 25: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 2		Quiz on Lectures 24 & 25 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #5
Thursday/Sub-Unit 3.4 July 23	Lecture 26: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 3	Reading 10: <i>Five Views</i>, p. 208-263 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i>, p. 389-417	Quiz on Lecture 26 Quiz on Reading 10: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 208-263 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 389-417
Friday/Sub-Unit 3.5 July 24	Lecture 27: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 4		Quiz on Lecture 27 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #6
Week 4/Unit 4	The Problem of Evil & Religious Pluralism		
Monday/Sub-Unit 4.1 July 27	Lecture 28: The Problem of Evil—Part 1 Lecture 29: The Problem of Evil—Part 2	Reading 11: <i>Christian Apologetics</i>, p.614-646, p. 653-676	Quiz on Lectures 28 & 29 Quiz on Reading 11: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p.614-646, p. 653-676
Tuesday/Sub-Unit 4.2 July 28	Lecture 30: The Problem of Evil—Part 3 Lecture 31: The Hiddenness of God		Quiz on Lectures 30 & 31
Wednesday/Sub-Unit 4.3	Lecture 32: Religious Pluralism—Part 1	Reading 12: <i>Five Views</i>, p. 266-312 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i>, p. 567-613	Quiz on Lectures 32 & 33

July 29	Lecture 33: Religious Pluralism—Part 2		Quiz on Reading 12: <i>Five Views</i> , p. 266-312 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 567-613 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #7
Thursday/Sub-Unit 4.4 July 30	Lecture 34: Religious Pluralism—Part 3 Lecture 35: Final Thoughts on Apologetics—Part 1	Reading 13: <i>Five Views</i> , p.314-373 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 647-652	Quiz on Lectures 34 & 35 Quiz on Reading 13: <i>Five Views</i> , p.314-373 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , p. 647-652
Friday/Sub-Unit 4.5 July 31	Lecture 36: Final Thoughts on Apologetics—Part 2		Quiz on Lecture 36 -Bluejeans Discussion with Dew #8
Final Components	Final Exam & Papers		
Sunday Night (8/2)	Your Final Exam is due no later than Sunday, August 2 nd , at 11:59 PM		
Wednesday Night	Your Book Review of Gould's book is due no later than Wednesday, August 5 th , at 11:59 PM		
Sunday Night (8/9)	Research paper is due no later than Sunday, August 9 th , at 11:59 PM		

Additional Course Information:

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: There are no make-up quizzes or exams. Students are given very large windows of time before the close of quizzes and exams. Students may turn papers in up to two weeks late of the due day, with a letter grade and a half per week they are late.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.

6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

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