



THEO/ETHC/WSTU6311 THEOLOGY OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Defend Apologetics Conference—January 8-12, 2018

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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 Value Focus

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “mission focus” especially highlighted in this course. The core value focus for the 2017-18 year is ***Servant Leadership***: “*We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.*”

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competency addressed in this course is: ***Spiritual and Character Formation***.

Course Description

This course is a biblical and theological analysis of manhood and womanhood. Topics to be investigated include the nature of man and woman as created by God, the effects of the Fall on gender, and the implications of Christ’s redemption upon the roles and relationships of men and women.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling Christian character and communicating ethical truth, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to **Understand** a biblical, theological, and rational basis for a Christian position on human sexuality and gender
2. Be able to **apply** a Christian theology and ethic to contemporary issues related to human sexuality and gender
3. Be able to **communicate** competently and convincingly Christian ethical and theological truths about human sexuality and gender

Primary Textbooks

Hiestand, Gerald L., and Todd Wilson, eds., *Beauty, Order, and Mystery: A Christian Vision for Human Sexuality*. Center for Pastor Theologians Series. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2017.

Hollinger, Dennis P. *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Kuehne, Dale S. *Sex and the iWorld: Rethinking Relationship beyond an Age of Individualism*. Foreword by Jean Bethke Elshtain. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Review Textbooks

Choose ONE (1) of the following for Text Review 1:

Butterfield, Rosaria Champaign. *Secret Thoughts on an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith*. 2nd and Expanded Edition. Pittsburg: Crown & Covenant, 2014.

OR

Yuan, Christopher, and Angela Yuan. *Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope*. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2011.

OR

Roberts, Vaughan. *Transgender*. Talking Points. Purcellville, VA: The Good Book Company, 2016.

Review the following for Text Review 2:

Grant, Jonathan. *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age*. Foreword by James K. A. Smith. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2015.

Choose ONE (1) of the following for Text Review 3:

Köstenberger, Andreas J, and Margaret E. Köstenberger. *God's Design for Man and Woman: A Biblical-Theological Survey*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.

OR

Rhoads, Steven E. *Taking Sex Differences Seriously*. San Francisco: Encounter Books, 2004.

Course Teaching Methodology

This is an event course tied to attending the Defend Conference at NOBTS. The Breakout sessions for this course will include lectures and class discussions, and will be taped for the conference. Following the Conference, students will continue to learn through reading and writing assignments, examination, and audio resources.

Course Requirements

You must turn in all assignments to pass the class. All assignments are submitted to the class blackboard.

Conference Participation Assignment (10% of Grade)

1. Lecture Attendance. Students are required to attend all plenary sessions as well as one breakout presentation for each breakout session, and listen to audio recordings of all breakout sessions they cannot physically attend.

Participation in the Conference requires that students do the following:

- Attend all Plenary Sessions (or listen to any missed)
- Attend one breakout presentation for each breakout session. You do not have to attend sessions specifically related to this course, but must listen to all related to this course and not count them in the 20 below
- Listen to 20 breakout sessions not physically attended
- Each student will submit to Blackboard by the due date a listening accountability statement estimating total participation, as described above
- **Due 14 weeks after the last day of the Defend Apologetics Conference (Friday, April 20, 2018).**

Textbook Reading Report (15% of Grade)

Each student is required to submit one reading accountability report that includes the three books listed below. For the reading report, simply record your name and the collective total percentage read of the books. For example, if you read 100% of book one, 100% of book two, and 75% of book three, you will submit a 92% in your statement. The reading report should also include a brief description of three important concepts gleaned from each book (9 concepts total—I recommend a short paragraph for each concept). The reading report should not exceed three double-spaced pages total.

1. Hiestand and Wilson, *Beauty, Order, and Mystery* should be read completely **(Due Friday, January 26, 2018)**
 2. Hollinger, *The Meaning of Sex* should be read completely **(Due Friday, February 9, 2018)**
 3. Kuehne, *Sex and the iWorld*, should be read completely **(Due Friday, February 23, 2018)**
- This assignment is **on your honor**. The collective percentage read from all books will be your grade. The grade will be reduced if “concepts gleaned” statements are missing.

Three Book Reviews: (each 15% of Grade)

Students will write one book review each from the **Text Review 1, Text Review 2, and Text Review 3** lists (for a total of 3 reviews).

Book reviews may be submitted as they are completed, but the following are firm Due Dates:

Text Review One Due (7 weeks after DtF): Friday, March 2, 2018

Text Review Two Due (9 weeks after DtF): Monday, March 16, 2018

Text Review Three Due (11 weeks after DtF): Friday, March 30, 2018

These reviews should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The book review should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account biblical, theological, and ethical principles and sound reasoning.
2. The critique should be **3-5 single spaced typed pages**.
3. Content should include the following. **Do not simply summarize chapters:**
 - A brief statement introducing the author and title of the book and communicating that the book has been read in its entirety. If the book has not been completely read, then communicate the truth about how much was read
 - The primary thesis, purpose, and/or description of the book
 - Major ethical insights communicated by the book. What points are particularly helpful for applying Christian ethics?
 - Ideas that changed or challenged your thinking (Ideas that are interesting, novel, or problematic). How and Why?
 - Insights in this book that relate practically to life and ministry, the life of the church, and to moral life in America
 - Major strengths and weaknesses of the book
 - In the conclusion, a brief statement of recommendation; why you would or would not recommend this book.
4. Develop subheading from the above bullet points (2-7).

Research Paper (30% of Grade)

Submitted to Dr. Riley via the Class Blackboard (do not email).

Due: 14 weeks after the last day of the Defend the Faith Apologetics Conference (Friday, April 20, 2018).

Each student will **write** a research paper on an issue related to the course, Theology of Sexuality and Gender. Following are a few general examples:

- What causes behaviors displayed by those who claim to be LBGTQ or something else? What is a Christian response, theological and ethical?
- What is gender? How is gender understood culturally? What is a biblical, theological response?
- What does it mean to be created male or female, and how should a Christian understanding of being male and female inform sexual issues in American culture?
- Do distinctions in being male and female extend to particular roles for men and women in society, in the church?
- How should the church respond to cultural mores, ideologies, and practices on sexuality or gender that conflict with a Christian ethic and theology?
- What is the relationship between human sexuality, the brain, and the soul?

Responsibilities: submit papers to Dr. Riley via SafeAssignment on Blackboard.

Research Paper Guidelines

1. The official style and form guide is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, latest edition.
2. Length: 15-20 double-spaced pages
3. Use footnotes, not endnotes.
4. Use Times New Roman 12 point font for body of text.

5. Include a title page
6. Do not include a table of contents. Do not use Chapters for a paper this length.
7. Limited use of first person (I or we) and second person (you) is allowed. Arguments, however, should be presented in such a manner so as to eliminate the need for all but third person references.
8. Use correct grammar and spelling.
9. The uses of past tense and present tense must be consistent. Generally, past tense is used to refer to historical events and persons, including writers of published materials. Present tense is utilized to present arguments, interact with opinions and viewpoints, and cite extant texts.
10. Do not use split infinitives.
11. Avoid one-sentence paragraphs.
12. Do not overuse indefinite pronouns (such as “it” or “there” without an antecedent).
13. Avoid “widows” and “orphans.”

Evaluation of Grade

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below. Borderline grades will normally be determined by the numerical grade received (I round up from .5), unless the student's promptness and faithfulness in class attendance, positive attitude and contribution in class discussions, and preparedness and attentiveness in class warrants special consideration. These factors only apply when the student is fractionally close to the next highest grade. In special cases, extra credit can be arranged with Dr. Riley.

Grade Distribution by Assignment and Due Dates

<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Reports	15%	
Hiestand and Wilson, <i>Beauty, Order, and Mystery</i>		Due: Friday, January 26, 2018
Hollinger, <i>The Meaning of Sex</i>		Due: Friday, February 9, 2018
Kuehne, <i>Sex and the iWorld</i>		Due: Friday, February 23, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Selected Text Review 1	15%	Due: Friday, March 2, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Selected Text Review 2	15%	Due: Monday, March 16, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Selected Text Review 3	15%	Due: Friday, March 30, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Research Paper	30%	Due: Friday, April 20, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Conference Participation</u>	10%	Due: Friday, April 20, 2018
	100%	

General Schedule for the Week

Check the Defend Conference event schedule to see the topics, times, and locations for the Ethics Breakout Sessions. Any breakout session taught by Dr. Riley will count towards the course and must be either attended or listened to via MP3 in order to get full credit for conference participation.

Technical Assistance

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

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

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.

Miscellaneous but Important Course Policies

Participation in Class is to attend the entire conference

Absences You must attend the entire Defend the Faith Conference to get credit for the course.

Late Work will be penalized. No assignment will be accepted that is over two weeks late, and all late work will be assessed a proportional penalty (two points per day) unless **prior permission** is sought and a legitimate reason warrants lateness. **Late work should include the date due and the day delivered on the cover page.**

Select Bibliography

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