



PHIL 5301 Christian Apologetics (Internet)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological & Historical Division
Fall 2022

Note: Feel free to contact me by email. Please always your name and PHIL 5301 in every email.

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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

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 course, 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

Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2011).

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

Paul M. Gould, *Cultural Apologetics: Renewing the Christian Voice, Conscience, and Imagination in a Disenchanted World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019).

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

Lecture, reading, discussion, tests, research, and writing. Each of these methods are designed to work together for a holistic approach to Christian apologetics.

Course Requirements

1. **Quizzes (20% of Grade):** There are 34 quizzes for this course, 21 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 notes*. 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 just 5 minutes to take the quiz.

- 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 also closed book, but open notes. You may use whatever notes you take over the lectures and from the readings, but not the texts themselves.
- 3. Attendance and Participation (15% of Grade):** Students must participate in all three threaded discussion posts throughout the semester. To get full credit for threaded discussions, students must make an original response to the original post (provided by the instructor) and at least 2 responses to classmates’ original post. There is no word count requirement for discussion posts, but they must be thoughtful and well-constructed. Students will lose points for “this is a good point” or “well said” types of posts. Engage with the content, and provide meaningful feedback.
- 4. 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.
due 9/25/22
- 5. 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 a paper in which 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 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 than 12 (non-textbook, Bible, Dictionary) resources in the paper.
due 12/1/22

Grading Scale:

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

Course Schedule

All assignments (quizzes, exams, written assignments) are due at 11:55pm Central time of the Sunday of the week in the course schedule. Quizzes will NOT be reopened for any reason.

Week	Lecture	Reading	Assignments
1	UNIT 1 August 15-21 Lecture 1: Apologetic Methodology Lecture 2: Faith & Reason	Reading 1: <i>Five Views</i> , pp. 25-89; & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 15-72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 1 & • Quiz: Reading 1 (by 8/21/22)
2	August 22-28 Lecture 3: The Role of Logic Lecture 4: Kinds of Inference Lecture 5: What Are Worldviews & How Do They Form?	Reading 2: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 73-116	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 3 & 4 • Quiz Lecture 5 • Quiz: Reading 2 (by 3/28/22)
3	August 29-September 4 Lecture 6: How do we evaluate Worldviews? Lecture 7: The Existence of God— Cosmological Arguments Lecture 8: The Existence of God— Teleological	Reading 3: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 117-167, pp. 330-363	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lecture 6 • Quiz: Lectures 7 & 8 • Quiz: Reading 3 (by 9/4/22)
4	September 5-11 Lecture 9: The Existence of God— Moral Arguments Lecture 10: The Existence of God— Ontological Arguments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 9 and 10 (by 9/11/22)
5	UNIT 2 September 12-18 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> , pp. 171-265, pp. 364-388	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 11 & 12 • Quiz: Reading 4 (by 9/18/22)
6	September 19-25 Lecture 13: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 1 Lecture 14: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 2	Reading 5: <i>Five Views</i> , pp. 91-145 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 475-526	Book Review Due 9.25.2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 13 & 14 • Quiz: Reading 5 (by 9/25/22)
7	September 26-October 2 Lecture 15: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 3 Lecture 16: The Resurrection of Jesus—Part 4	Reading 6: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 527-563	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 15 & 16 • Quiz: Reading 6 (by 10/2/22)
October 3-9	<i>Fall Break - Prepare for Midterm!</i>		

8	October 10-16	Lecture 17: Why Do We Trust the Bible? Lecture 18: What Does Jesus Say About the Bible? Lecture 19: The Bible's Formation and Preservation	Reading 7: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 438-474	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 17 & 18 • Quiz: Lecture 19 • Quiz: Reading 7 • Midterm exam (by 10/16/22)
9	UNIT 3 October 17-23	Lecture 20: The Relationship of Theology & Science Lecture 21: The Shared Assumptions of Theology & Science	Reading 8: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 266-329	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 20 & 21 • Quiz: Reading 8 (by 10/23/22)
10	October 24-30	Lecture 22: Are Miracles Really Possible? — Part 1 Lecture 23: Are Miracles Really Possible? — Part 2	Reading 9: <i>Five Views</i> , pp. 148-206	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 22 & 23 • Quiz: Reading 9 (by 11/30/22)
11	October 31- November 6	Lecture 24: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 1 Lecture 25: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 2 Lecture 26: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 3 Lecture 27: The Possibility of Life After Death—Part 4	Reading 10: <i>Five Views</i> , pp. 208-263 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 389-417	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 24 & 25 • Quiz: Lecture 26 • Quiz: Lecture 27 • Quiz: Reading 10 (by 11/6/22)
12	UNIT 4 November 7-13	Lecture 28: The Problem of Evil—Part 1 Lecture 29: The Problem of Evil—Part 2	Reading 11: <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp.614-646, pp. 653-676	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lecture 28 & 29 • Quiz: Reading 11 (by 11/13/22)
13	November 14- 20	Lecture 30: The Problem of Evil—Part 3 Lecture 31: The Hiddenness of God	Reading 12: <i>Five Views</i> , pp. 266-312 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 567-613	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 30 & 31 • Quiz: Reading 12 (by 11/20/22) <p><i>Note: to lessen work during Thanksgiving week, work ahead this week)</i></p>
14	November 21- 27	Lecture 32: Religious Pluralism—Part 1 Lecture 33: Religious Pluralism—Part 2 Lecture 34: Religious Pluralism—Part 3	Reading 13: <i>Five Views</i> , pp. 314-373 & <i>Christian Apologetics</i> , pp. 647-652	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 32 and 33 • Quiz: Reading 13 (by 11/27/22)
15	November 28- December 4	Lecture 35: Final Thoughts on Apologetics—Part 1 Lecture 36: Final Thoughts on Apologetics—Part 2		<p>Paper Due due 12.1.2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Lectures 34 & 35 • Quiz: Lecture 36 • Final exam (due by 12/4/22)

Additional Course Information

Attendance Policy: NOBTS follows the attendance policy as stated in the NOBTS catalog. For online classes, students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

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.

Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all NOBTS 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, and will be reported to the Dean of Graduate Studies for further action. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Canvas.NOBTS.com -- Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

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