



ETHC6311 Theology of Sexuality and Gender

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
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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.

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 Spiritual Vitality especially highlighted in this course. The core value focus for the 2019-20 year is *Spiritual Vitality*.

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.

Pearcey, Nancy R. *Love Thy Body*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

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

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2015.

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.

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 course will primarily use discussion between faculty and students as well as peer-to-peer discussion to encourage learning and application of the course material. Other methods may be used at the professor's discretion.

Course Requirements

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

Textbook Reading Report (15% of Grade)

Each student is required to submit a reading accountability statement estimating how much of the total required reading was completed by the due date, with a brief statement of one important concept gleaned from the book.

For the reading report, simply record your name and the collective total percentage read from the following books. Include for each book, in no more than one page, a statement describing three important concepts gleaned from the book:

1. Hiestand and Wilson, *Beauty, Order, and Mystery* Due: June 1, 2020
2. Pearcey, *Love Thy Body* Due: June 1, 2020
3. Yarhouse, *Understanding Gender Dysphoria* Due: June 1, 2020
4. Roberts, *Transgender* (No Reading Report required. Reading will help for class time.)

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:	Sunday, June 14, 2020
Text Review Two	Due:	Sunday, June 28, 2020
Text Review Three	Due:	Sunday, July 12, 2020

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. Lyon via the Class Blackboard (do not email).

Due: Sunday, July 26, 2020

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. Lyon 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. 1" margins all around.
6. Include a title page
7. Do not include a table of contents. Do not use Chapters for a paper this length.
8. 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.
9. Use correct grammar and spelling.
10. 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.
11. Do not use split infinitives.
12. Avoid one-sentence paragraphs.
13. Do not overuse indefinite pronouns (such as "it" or "there" without an antecedent).
14. Avoid "widows" and "orphans."

Class Participation (10% of grade)

Students should attend all class sessions and seek to contribute to the course during the instruction time. Students should be prepared to answer questions from the professor, engage ideas expressed through multiple areas such as professor, peer, news, social media, etc., and to discuss reading and other material directly related to the discussion topic. Students will be measured on preparedness, contribution, and faithfulness to discuss in a manner worthy of Christian conduct.

There will be no tolerance for acting/speaking in ways that are un-Christlike regarding the topics or to the professor or peers. We will most certainly disagree on these issues/readings/positions/etc, but we will honor our Lord through our unity that is anchored in the person of Christ expressed through our interaction with one another.

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. Lyon.

Grade Distribution by Assignment and Due Dates

• Required Reading Reports	15%	
1. Hiestand and Wilson, <i>Beauty, Order, and Mystery</i>		Due: June 1, 2020
2. Pearcey, <i>Love Thy Body</i>		Due: June 1, 2020
3. Yarhouse, <i>Understanding Gender Dysphoria</i>		Due: June 1, 2020
• Selected Text Review 1	15%	Due: Sunday, June 14, 2020
• Selected Text Review 2	15%	Due: Sunday, June 28, 2020
• Selected Text Review 3	15%	Due: Sunday, July 12, 2020
• Research Paper	30%	Due: Sunday, July 26, 2020
• Discussion Participation	10%	
	100%	

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

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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