



PHIL/PREA 6322 Pulpit Apologetics
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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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

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is *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.*

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 competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Servant Leadership.

Course Description

This is an advanced course which considers the role of apologetics in expository preaching. Students are exposed to a variety of homiletical approaches aimed at demonstrating the truth and relevance of God's Word in contemporary culture. Emphasis is given to proclamation aimed at forming a Christian worldview in the minds and hearts of hearers.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe various issues in contemporary culture which can be addressed by apologetic expository preaching.
2. Understand and articulate effective apologetic responses to contemporary challenges to the Christian faith.
3. Value the role of Christian apologetics in expository preaching aimed at demonstrating the truth and relevance of God's Word in culture today.
4. Apply the principles of expository preaching to the development of apologetic sermons and sermon series through a variety of homiletical approaches.

Textbooks

For all students:

Baucham, Voddie, Jr. *Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2015.

Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Sermons that Connect with Our Culture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

Loscalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2000.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. Conference attendance. Students will attend the “Defend 2020” conference and participate actively in plenary sessions, demonstrating a grasp of the issues presented in each lecture.
2. Lecture. Much of the class time will consist of lecture by the professor in conjunction with the “Defend 2020” conference, and students are expected to interact, thus demonstrating both a quest for knowledge and a grasp of the course material.
3. Research and Writing. Students will research and write a paper identifying specific apologetic issues in their ministry setting in order to demonstrate their ability to understand their cultural context relative to issues in both their congregation and community that need to be addressed with apologetics.
4. Homiletics. Students will plan a sermon series and write sermon briefs and a sermon manuscript in order to demonstrate their ability to choose appropriate preaching texts, conduct thorough exegesis, and develop sermons for use in the local church.

Course Requirements

Workshop Assignment: Plenary Session Notes (Due 1/24)

Take notes on twelve (12) Defend the Faith plenary (heard either in person or by recording). Turn in a one page single spaced summary for each plenary session.

Your notes should outline or overview (a) the content of the Apologetic issue presented, (b) your brief evaluation of the relevance of the issue in your current or intended ministry setting, and (c) your brief reflections on what you learned about presenting this issue in a public forum.

Post-workshop Assignment: Book Reviews of the Texts (Due 2/7)

Read the Baucham, Eswine, and Loscalzo texts carefully, and write a book review of about 3 single-spaced pages each. Your book review should include two key elements:

(a) an annotated summary of the content of the book, especially with regard to apologetic preaching, and (b) your evaluation of what you found helpful/contributions/strengths in the book, as well as its weaknesses. The content summary should be about two pages and the evaluation about one page. References within the books may be references in parentheses; other references should be footnoted.

Post-Workshop Assignment: Analysis of Ministry Setting (Due 3/6)

Students will prepare an **Analysis** of their current or anticipated ministry setting. The analysis should identify specific apologetic issues in the students’ contexts. This will include issues relative to both the students’ congregations and communities that need to be addressed with apologetics. For example, someone living in Salt Lake City would identify Mormonism in general and the person and work of Jesus in particular. Someone living in San Francisco might identify human sexuality and the definition of marriage as relevant issues. The student will identify those issues affecting his or her context, whether they are unique to the context (such as a local cultic movement) or of a more general nature (moral relativism). The analysis should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced).

Post-Workshop Assignment: Sermon Series on Apologetics (Due 3/27)

Students will prepare a sermon series which addresses issues in contemporary culture from a perspective of Apologetics, and which demonstrates the truth and relevance of God’s Word. The series is to consist of 9 sermons. The series might involve all of the sermons addressing a single issue or cluster of issues, or nine different topics. However, all the issues the student chooses to address in the sermon series should consist of issues discovered and researched in his or her Ministry Setting Analysis. The student must submit: (1) a one-page overview of the entire series, including texts, titles, and summaries of each sermon; (2) a sermon brief and sermon study notes for each sermon to be preached; (3) one sermon manuscript from a particular sermon in the series; and (4) a single-spaced Selected Bibliography of resources useful for the preacher in implementing this preaching plan in a preaching ministry. The professors will provide the sermon brief form and other form guides.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 10% Baucham Book Review
- 10% Eswine Book Review
- 10% Loscalzo Book Review
- 20% Plenary Session Notes (12 sessions)
- 20% Analysis of Ministry Setting
- 30% Sermon Series (9 sermons, 1 manuscript)

NOBTS grading scale: 93-100, A; 85-92, B; 77-84, C; 70-76, D; 0-69, F.

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.

Class Policies

1. Late work will be penalized one letter grade per day. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.
2. Because of the nature of the workshop format, attendance is mandatory for all class sessions.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to follow Turabian 8th edition. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will not be accepted.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Blackboard and SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will be need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

In Case of a Declared Campus Evacuation

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

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.

Course Schedule

Students must register for the “Defend 20” conference. All sessions connected to the Pulpit Apologetics course must be attended. If a conflict exists with sessions related to another course the student is taking, the audio recordings can be substituted for live attendance. Prior approval of the professor is necessary.

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