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 Values and Curriculum Competencies
The primary core values addressed in this seminar are Mission Focus, Doctrinal Integrity, and Characteristic Excellence. The Curriculum Competencies most specifically addressed in the course are Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description
This Special Event Seminar is designed to involve students in the analysis and investigation of relevant theological issues pertinent to Baptist life in general and the Southern Baptist Convention in particular. Students will encounter and engage significant theological and ministerial issues through attendance and participation in the conference at the Seminary. The course is designed to promote the importance of theology and the integration of theology for Baptist ministry and church life.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:
1. Assess the worldview and apologetic issues in his current ministry context.
2. Articulate a fundamental knowledge of the Christian worldview.
3. Understand and evaluate foundational apologetic approaches to a key issue.
4. Incorporate apologetic tools into one’s teaching or preaching ministry.

Textbooks
Required for All

Apologetics Focus:
Choose one of these topic clusters and read all the books listed in that cluster.

Postmodernism Cluster
Problem of Evil and Suffering Cluster

New Atheism Cluster

Theology/Soteriology Cluster
Choose any two of the following:

Course Requirements

*Pre-class Assignments, 50 points each (due Tuesday, January 3)*

- Two book reviews -- Read the Copan text and one of the books from the topic cluster you choose, and prepare written reviews of these two books. Each review should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs). Your reviews should reflect a serious reading of the texts and a careful analysis of their content, including the following:
  - Brief biographical sketch of author(s) (a paragraph)
  - Author’s purpose and thesis (a paragraph)
  - Summary of contents, purpose, thesis, and major arguments of the books (4 pages)
Defend the Faith Conference Participation, 50 points (due Monday, January 23)

Since you signed up for this Defend the Faith special event seminar on Apologetic Preaching, we assume that you wanted to attend the Defend the Faith Apologetics conference. The conference will provide a rich resource for some of your areas of interest in Apologetics. Note that registration for the conference is separate from registration for the course. The conference is Monday, January 2 through Friday, January 7. However, you are not required to attend all of the conference. You will have release time to attend the conference all day Monday and Friday, as well as Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and all the night sessions. However, if your ministry schedule does not permit you to attend more of the conference, we have arranged for you to attend the plenary sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning and evenings at no additional cost. To register and for more information about the conference, go to http://nobtsapologetics.com/defendthefaith/. We have secured a special discounted ProDoc rate for you of $50 for the entire week, or free for the sessions we’re not in class Tuesday through Thursday. You are required to be in each of our scheduled seminar sessions 1:00-5:00 Tuesday through Thursday.

• Attend all three ProDoc seminar sessions (1/3-5)
  Dr. Lemke will be making some presentations, and we will be discussing your insights from the texts that you read and the sessions you are attending. The required class meetings are:
  o 1:00-5:00 on Tuesday, January 3,
  o 1:00-5:00 on Wednesday, January 4, and
  o 1:00-5:00 on Thursday, January 4

• Session notes – Due 1/23 – 25 points
  Take notes on any five of the Defend the Faith plenary or breakout sessions besides our class (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, and (b) your brief evaluation of the relevance of the issue in your ministry setting.

Ministry Contextual Analysis, due February 15th, 50 points

• Prepare an analysis of your current ministry setting. The analysis should identify specific apologetic issues in your context. This will include issues relative to both your congregation and your community 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. You will want to identify those issues affecting your context, whether they are unique to your context (such as a local cultic movement) or of a more general nature (moral relativism). Then suggest what you could do in preaching or teaching to address these questions. The analysis should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced).
Apologetics Focus Book Reviews, due March 1st, 50 points each

- Read the remaining textbooks listed in your Apologetics focus area you have chosen, and prepare written reviews of these books. Each review should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs). Your reviews should reflect a serious reading of the texts and a careful analysis of their content, the same as described in the prior book review assignment.

Grading

The assignments will be graded according to the Seminary-wide grading scale, i.e.,
A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 77-84, D = 70-76, F = below 70.

Selected Apologetics Bibliography


Fish, Stanley. *Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980.


Fredericks, James L. *Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions.*


