

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

THTH 8304 The Christian Worldview

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NOBTS 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.

Description

The seminar is designed to involve students in researching, understanding, and communicating the Christian Worldview and its implications for ministry. Issues addressed include the nature of worldviews, the uniqueness of the Christian worldview in comparison to other worldviews, and the reasonableness of the Christian worldview. Special attention is given to issues related to communicating and defending the Christian worldview in the context of contemporary ministry. The seminar also prepares students to engage in worldview reflection in other professional doctoral seminars, the final project proposal, and the final project report.

Core Values Focused

Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Characteristic Excellence. Every year the Seminary focuses on one of the core values. For the academic year 2015-2016, the core value of emphasis will be Mission Focus.

Competencies Addressed

Christian Theological Heritage, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Biblical Exposition

Student Outcomes

Students successfully completing the seminar will demonstrate

- foundational knowledge of the methods and tasks of Christian worldview and apologetic methodology;
- awareness of the critical significance of worldview for the church and biblical communication;
- knowledge of philosophical foundations that contribute to worldview studies;

- appreciation of various approaches for communicating to contemporary audiences;
- ability to develop strategies for communicating the Christian worldview in a variety of settings;
- commitment to attentive reading, solid research, sound reasoning, and clear and substantive writing.

Required Textbooks

Colson, Chuck and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1999.

Craig, William Lane and J. P. Moreland, *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.

Naugle, David K. *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Penner, Myron Bradley, *The End of Apologetics Christian Witness in a Postmodern Context*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Other Suggested Texts

Budziszewski, J. *What We Can't Not Know*. Dallas: Spence, 2003.

Colson, Charles and Nancy Pearcey. *Developing a Christian Worldview of the Problem of Evil*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2001.

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

Geivett, Douglas and Gary R. Habermas. *In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.

Erickson, Millard J. *Truth or Consequences: The Promise & Perils of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001.

Lescalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: IVP Academic, 2000.

McGrath, Alister. *Science and Religion: An Introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1999.

Quinn, Philip L. and Charles Taliaferro. *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1997.

Sire, James. *Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2004.

Stiver, Dan R. *The Philosophy of Religious Language: Sign, Symbol and Story*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1996.

Walsh, Brian and Richard Middleton. *The Transforming Vision*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1984.

Seminar Assignments – Please note all assignments may be turned in via Blackboard.

Reading Schedule

The following selected chapters from Craig and Moreland should be read before the workshop: 1,2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 31.

All other books should be read before the first day of the seminar. A reading report will be turned in stating that all reading, or what percentage of the reading, was completed. The reading report is due on the last day of the seminar.

Book Reviews

Prepare written reviews of Colson, Naugle, and Penner. Each book review should be at least 8 pages in length. The text of each review should be written (Times New Roman 12pt, double spaced, Turabian format), reflect serious study and analysis, and include the following sections:

- biographical sketch of author(s)
- author's purpose
- author's thesis or major arguments
- summary of contents
- significant teachings or insights
- strengths and weaknesses
- contributions to ministerial formation
- five questions related to the book for seminar discussion

The reviews are due the first day of the seminar.

Reflection Paper

Using Craig and Moreland and Penner as your primary sources, write a personal reflection paper (8-10 pages, double spaced, Turabian format) concerning how a person may effectively communicate the Christian worldview in a variety of situations. Students should consider audience, content, Bible references, and various sermonic and apologetic styles. Special attention should be given to the specific topic and audience. While sermonic methodologies needs to be considered, students should also reflect on the variety of other settings in which a Christian worldview may be communicated (debate, evangelistic events, coffee shops, etc.). The paper is due 2 weeks after the workshop.

Final Project

The final project is a paper (18-20 pages, double spaced, Turabian format) addressing the following:

Part 1: Definition of a worldview

Part 2: Philosophical and worldview trends in contemporary culture

Part 3: Communication principles and methodologies to address contemporary culture
Part 4: A sample communication in which the Christian worldview is communicated to an audience. This may be in the form of a sermon outline, debate manuscript, evangelistic dialogue, etc.

The final project should be written in Turabian format. Students may use the required books of the course, as well as others to have a minimum of 10 sources. The project is due 4 weeks after the workshop.

Seminar Assignment Values

- Reading Assignments 10%
- Seminar Discussions 10%
- Book Reviews 45% (15% each)
- Reflection Paper 15%
- Final Project 20%

Selected Bibliography

- Beckwith, Francis J. and Gregory Koukl. *Relativism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York: Free Press, 1996.
- Boa, Kenneth D. and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001), 19.
- Bloom, Allan. *The Closing of the American Mind*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987.
- Budzeszewski, J. *Written on the Heart*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Bush, L. Russ. *Classical Readings in Christian Apologetics: A.D. 100-1800*. Grand Rapids: Academic Books, 1983.
- Campolo, Anthony. *A Reasonable Faith: Responding to Secularism*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1983.
- Caputo, John D. *Deconstruction in a Nutshell: A Conversation with Jacques Derrida*. New York: Fordham University Press, 1997.
- Chang, Curtis. *Engaging Unbelief*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Chappell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- Clark, David. *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.
- Clark, Kelly James, ed. *Philosophers Who Believe*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Clarke, Andrew and Bruce W. Winter. *One God, One Lord: Christianity in a World of Religious Pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Paternoster Press, 1992.
- Clendenin, Daniel. *Many Gods, Many Lords: Christianity Encounters World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.
- Colson, Chuck and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1999.

Copan, Paul. *True For You, But Not For Me: Deflating the Slogans that Leave Christians Speechless*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998.

_____. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Corduan, Winifried. *Reasonable Faith*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.

Craig: William Lane. *No Easy Answers: Finding Hope in Doubt, Failure and Unanswered Prayer*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1994.

Crockett, William V. and James G. Signountos., ed. *Through No Fault of Their Own? The Fate of Those Who Have Never Heard*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1991.

Dembski, William A. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1999.

Dockery, David S. *The Challenge of Postmodernism*. Edited by David S. Dockery. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

Dodd, C.H. *The Apostolic Preaching and its Developments*. London: Hodder and Stoughton Limited, 1936.

Dyrness, William. *Christian Apologetics in a World Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983.

Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical Responses to the Challenge of Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

_____. *Truth or Consequences*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

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

Fackre, Gabriel, Ronald H. Nash, and John Sanders. *What About Those Who Have Never Heard? Three Views on the Destiny of the Unevangelized*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

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

. *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Fredericks, James L. *Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1988.

Gibson, Scott, ed. *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Griffin, Em. *The Mind Changers*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1986.

Guinness, Os. *Doubt: Faith in Two Minds*, 2d ed. Glasgow: Collins, 1983.

Habermas, Gary. *Dealing with Doubt*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1990.

Halverson, Dean, ed. *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1996.

Hick, John. *God Has Many Names*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1982.

. *An Interpretation of Religion*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

Kallenberg, Brad. *Live to Tell: Evangelism in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2002.

Keller, Tim. *The Reason for God*. New York: Penguin, 2004.

Knitter, Paul F. *Jesus and the Other Names: Christian Mission and Global Responsibility*. New

- York: Orbis Books, 1996.
- Kreeft, Peter. *Three Philosophies of Life*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.
- Kreeft, Peter, and Ronald K. Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1994.
- Larsen, David. *The Evangelism Mandate: Recovering the Centrality of Gospel Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1992.
- Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.
- Lightner, Robert P. *The God of the Bible and Other Gods: Is the Christian God unique among World Religions?* Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1998.
- Little, Paul E. *Know Why You Believe*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1968.
- Loscalzo, Craig A. *Apologetic Preaching*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Mayers, Ronald B. *Both/And: A Balanced Apologetic*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984.
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- Miller, Calvin. *Marketplace Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.
- Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. *He is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Chicago: Moody, 2008.
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in a Pluralistic World. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

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