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

Other Suggested Texts

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


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


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


