



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PMTH8300 Apologetic Preaching

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Doctor of Ministry Seminar

October 10-12, 2023

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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.

Course Description

This seminar is designed to equip students to understand cultural, doctrinal, moral, and other contextual issues for the purpose of faithfully proclaiming God's Word. Students will study various apologetic approaches and will be able to understand the nature of apologetics, specifically as it relates to the preaching ministry. The seminar will address the nature of worldviews and the uniqueness and reasonableness of the Christian worldview. Special attention will be given to communicating and defending the Christian worldview in the context of expository preaching. Also can be taken as THCH8300.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student who satisfactorily fulfills the requirements should be able by the end of the course to:

1. evaluate apologetic preaching using accepted expository homiletical methodology;
2. articulate a fundamental knowledge of the Christian worldview;
3. understand and evaluate foundational apologetic philosophies and methods;
4. incorporate various apologetic methods into expository preaching; and
5. compose a sermon series that demonstrates apologetic methodology and sound exegetical-homiletical principles.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. through assigned reading and discussions, the seminar will introduce students to contemporary trends in apologetic theory and methodology;
2. lectures by the professor will provide the basis for moving from theory to practice in implementing apologetics into expository preaching;

3. written assignments will sharpen the student's ability to assess his ministry context and to incorporate relevant apologetic methods through the medium of expository preaching.

Textbooks

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

Keller, Tim. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Dutton, 2008.

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

Shaddix, Jim. *Decisional Preaching*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer, 2019.

Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar Assignments:

(1) Four Critical Book Reviews (50 points each)

DUE: October 10

Read the assigned textbooks and prepare written reviews. Each review should be 4-5 pages (single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs). Reviews should reflect a serious reading of the texts and a careful analysis of their content, including the following:

- Brief biographical sketch of author (one paragraph)
- Author's purpose and thesis (one paragraph)
- Summary of contents, purpose, thesis, and major arguments of the books (four pages)
- Significant teachings or insights (half page)
- Strengths and weaknesses (half page)
- Contributions to apologetic preaching (one paragraph)
- 3-5 questions related to the book for seminar discussion (one paragraph)

(2) Apologetic Expository Sermon Analysis Paper (100 points)

DUE: October 10

The student will analyze an apologetic expository sermon of one significant preacher of the student's choosing using the expositional methodology of one major homiletical work of the student's choosing as the instrument for analysis. The paper should be 8-10 pages (single-spaced, double-spaced between paragraphs). For instance, the subject of such a paper might be: "Josh McDowell's sermon, 'Tolerating the Intolerable,' analyzed using the homiletical methodology of Haddon Robinson's *Biblical Preaching*."

The paper will contain the following elements:

- Biographical sketch of the preacher and description of his ministry context (one paragraph)
- Summary of the expositional preaching model of the selected homiletical work (two pages)
- Summary and analysis of the sermon using the homiletical model (four to five pages)

- Evaluation of the sermon's effectiveness as apologetic preaching (two pages)

The selected preacher should be recognized and acknowledged for his skill and experience in preaching. The selected sermon should be demonstrably apologetic in nature. The selected homiletical work should be widely regarded as a seminal expository preaching methodology. The student should construct a tool for analyzing the sermon using material from the selected homiletical work paying particular attention to (1) the argumentative and logical structure of the message; (2) the use of developmental elements of explanation, argumentation, illustration, and application; (3) the function of the introduction and conclusion. Special emphasis should be given to the apologetic effectiveness of the message.

NOTE: Student should request the professor's approval of the student's selected **preacher**, **sermon**, and **homiletical** work by no later than **September 8**.

During the Seminar Assignments

(1) First Draft of Apologetic Sermon Brief (25 points)

DUE: October 12

You will prepare an apologetic sermon series after the seminar that provides apologetic arguments that respond to issues in your context. The brief should illustrate sound exegetical foundations for preaching (e.g., historical background, literary structure, content analysis, and good homiletics) as well as sound apologetic methodology. Each student will submit a first draft of one sermon brief to be presented and critiqued in the seminar. The complete sermon series is due **December 8**.

(2) Attend all ProDoc seminar sessions — October 10-12

The Professor will provide presentations and will be discussing your insights from the texts that you read. Each student will also present the *Apologetic Expository Sermon Analysis Paper* on October 11 as well as the *First Draft of Apologetic Sermon Series* on October 12 for discussion in class.

Post-Seminar Assignments:

(1) Apologetic Sermon Reviews (25 points)

DUE: November 10

Review three sermons on apologetic topics by three different preachers. The selected preachers should be recognized and acknowledged for skill and experience in preaching. Students will submit a one- page review of each sermon. The sermons must address specific apologetic issues covered in class and may be viewed either in person or via video.

(2) Apologetic Sermon Series (50 points)

DUE: December 8

Prepare a sermon series consisting of six 1-2 page (single-spaced) sermon briefs that provide apologetic arguments that respond to issues in your context. These briefs should illustrate sound exegetical foundations for preaching (e.g., historical background, literary structure, content analysis, and homiletical principles) as well as sound apologetic methodology. You will have submitted the first draft of one sermon brief to be presented and critiqued in the seminar. An introduction to the Sermon Series should be included stating the purpose of the series and an explanation of why the particular passages were selected. See guidelines for a sermon brief at the end of this syllabus.

Deadlines

Each assignment must be submitted by midnight (Central Time) of the date due. In fairness to all students, no exceptions are allowed.

Evaluation of Grade

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

The assignments will be weighted as follows:

- 50 points — Critical Book Review 1
- 50 points — Critical Book Review 2
- 50 points — Critical Book Review 3
- 50 points — Critical Book Review 4
- 100 points — Apologetic Expository Sermon Analysis Paper
- 25 points — First Draft of Apologetic Sermon Brief
- 25 points — Apologetic Sermon Reviews
- 50 points — Apologetic Sermon Series

CLASS POLICIES:

1. Attendance and Class Participation: As noted above, attendance and class participation are necessary for meeting the requirements of this class. Students will be expected to attend all classes, per the published policy in the academic catalog. Students are expected to be attentive and prepared for each class session. Students who are engaged in private conversations or doing work for other classes may be asked to leave the class; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. Rude or disruptive behavior is also not permitted.
2. Late Work: Because of the nature of this class, no late work is permitted without explicit approval of the professor. If you cannot meet a deadline or anticipate being unable to do so, notify the professor.
3. Plagiarism: NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook and Graduate Catalog for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or

unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of “F” will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out” (Prov 10:19).

Learning Management System (CANVAS): You will be enrolled in the Canvas class. Pre-seminar and Post-seminar assignments should be uploaded on or before the assigned due date. Course schedule, documents, and other presentations will be shared on Canvas by the professors.

Student Canvas Resources

Student Guide to Canvas: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

Canvas Tutorial Videos: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/tkbp/videos#student-videos>

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. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
3. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
4. Canvas.NOBTS.com - Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS CANVAS System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.

Disclaimer

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, the student will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This syllabus proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus when they reasonably think that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the student.