THCM 3330-30: Introduction to Christian Apologetics
Spring 2019 (Term 193)

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The mission of Leavell College 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
The course will address the core value of Doctrinal Integrity and Mission Focus directly and Spiritual Vitality indirectly. Reflection on the philosophical issues is intimately related to reflection on the nature of God, Scripture, Christian faith, evangelism, and the doctrine of Creation. For the Christian, philosophy is ultimately a matter of loving God with the mind (Matthew 22:37-40). The core value for the 2018-2019 academic year is Doctrinal Integrity.

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to explore world religions and logic as building blocks for developing an apologetic methodology and using apologetics in evangelism. Special attention will be drawn to classical arguments for theism and especially the biblical God in the presence of postmodern worldviews.

General Education Competencies (GECs)
Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:
1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning
This course addresses GEC #1 and #3.
Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BACM and three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BAM:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
2. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
3. Service and Leadership (BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
4. Historical and Theological Interpretation (BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLO #3.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

In order to obey the biblical mandate found in 1 Peter 3:15, by the end of the course the student will:

1. Understand the basics of Christian theology and be able to recognize concepts that are inconsistent with orthodox Christianity.
2. Value the following concepts:
   - Intellectual accountability in relation to the issues of ultimate concern to Christian faith.
   - Convincing presentations of Christian faith.
   - Insightful and effective defenses of the Christian faith.
   - Clear ways of stating the Christian hope to those who either reject or question the truth claims of Christian theology.
3. Be able to present and defend the Christian faith clearly and rationally.

Accordingly:

4. Students will read broadly on issues in Christian apologetics.
5. Students will become familiar with issues related to Christian apologetics by completing course assignments.
6. Students will demonstrate basic understanding of an issue related to the subject by writing a book review on a particular apologetic issue.

Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:


The following texts are optional:


The following texts are recommended:


**Course Requirements and Grading**

**Absences** may not exceed 9 hours of class time if the student is to receive credit for the course, according to the NOBTS catalog.

**Make-up Exams** are not permitted, except in extreme situations, to insure that all students have approximately equal time to prepare for exams. The instructor has the final decision regarding the legitimacy of excuses in cases of missed exams. The student who misses the exam bears the responsibility for explaining the absence and arranging for a make-up exam within the prescribed two-week period.

**Late Work** will be penalized 10 points per office day late up to 5 days. No assignment may be submitted after 5 office days without prior permission of the professor.

**Grades** will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale.

**Quizzes** will cover the readings assigned in the primary text and class lectures. The form of the quizzes will be objective. There will also be class discussion over material in the text on quiz days—but not as part of the quiz. **Under no circumstances will any quiz ever be given in advance or as a make-up!** This assignment relates to BACM PSLO #3 and CLSOs #1, 2, 3, and 5.

**Book Review.** Book review(s) should include: (1) professional biographical data concerning the author; (2) a summary and identification of the major elements of content; (3) an assessment of the author's aim or purpose; (4) an evaluation of the degree of its fulfillment; and (5) a critical evaluation of the book which includes some documented research on the general topic. Students should cite the work of others in the critique section. Parenthetical page numbers are sufficient for quotations from the book being reviewed. All other citations should conform to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. **This assignment relates to GECs #1 and #3; BACM PSLO #3, and CSLOs #1-#6.**

**Exams** will be a combination of objective questions and take-home questions. The take-home question should be answered as thoroughly as possible in 2-3 typed pages. The take-home portion will be roughly 50% of the grade for each exam. **The take-home question(s) will be distributed in class one week before the exams. The exams will be announced at least one class session before the take-home question is distributed.** This assignment relates to GECs #1 and #3, BACM PSLO #3, and CSLOs #1-3, 5.

Each test will be limited to the material in that unit. Guidance may be given in advance concerning the material to be covered and the direction of the questions asked. The exams will test both mastery of content (significant thinkers and their contributions, summaries of apologetic methods, philosophical vocabulary, etc.) and critical thinking skills (the ability to articulate and defend a position in an essay). **If a review sheet is given, it does not mean that**
only the material on the review sheet will be covered or that all the material on the review sheet will be covered. Review sheets are simply aids to preparation, not restrictions upon the professor.

Read Report for Required Texts. Students must read the required texts during the semester. A statement as to what students have read will be included as part of the final exam. Students who have read all the assigned reading will receive 5 points toward the final grade. Students who have not read all the assigned reading will receive 0 points toward the final grade. This assignment relates to GEC #1, BACM PSLO #3, and CSLOs #1-5.

Grading:
The final grade will be determined accordingly:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Report</td>
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<td>Quiz Average</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Book Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>First exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Borderline Grades will be determined by the numerical grade received, unless the student's promptness and faithfulness in class attendance, positive attitude and contribution in class discussions, and preparedness and attentiveness in class warrants special consideration. These factors will only apply when the student is within one or two points of the next highest grade.

Extra Credit may be earned as listed below. All extra credit will be added to the final grade.

1. Additional Reading. Consideration for extra credit will be given for significant reading over and above the class assignments within the field. Consideration will be given not only to the amount, but also to the quality, of the material read. Students must read all of the assigned readings in order to be eligible to earn extra credit for additional reading.

2. Book Reviews may be done for extra credit. The review must be of a book listed by the instructor for reading reviews unless the instructor has approved another book. The review should include: (1) some biographical data concerning the author; (2) an identification of the major elements of content; (3) an assessment of the author's aim or purpose and of the degree of its fulfillment; and (4) a critical evaluation of the book which includes some documented research on the general topic. The reviews should follow Turabian form.

3. Special Events sponsored by various NOBTS divisions may also be considered for extra credit with the approval of the professor.

Reading Inventories listing all required and optional reading done for the course will be due at the final exam. As stated above exceptional additional reading may add to the final score for the course. Failure to read all assigned readings will result in a decrease in the final score for the course.
**PROLEGOMENA**

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<tr>
<th>CLASS SCHEDULE</th>
<th>CLASS DISCUSSION TOPIC</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Biblical Basis for Christian Apologetics</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Worldviews: What They Are and How They Work</td>
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<td>Faith and Reason</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Postmodernism and Truth</td>
<td>Chapters 27-29</td>
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<td>A Little Lesson in Logic</td>
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<td>Abductive Reasoning</td>
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<td>Knowledge: The Basics</td>
<td>Chapter 30</td>
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**THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF SCRIPTURE**

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<th>CLASS SCHEDULE</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Has Jesus Been Misquoted?: Textual Reliability</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>What About Those Other Gospels? Canonical Issues</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The Historical Jesus</td>
<td>The Historical Basis of the Resurrection</td>
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**CHRISTIAN THEISM AND NATURALISM**

*Spring break*

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<th>CLASS SCHEDULE</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Understanding Atheism: A Colorless Worldview</td>
<td>Prologue: A Theistic Universe</td>
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<td>What's Wrong with the New Atheism</td>
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<td>Arguments for God’s Existence: Uses and Limitations; Teleological Arguments</td>
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<td>Cosmological Arguments</td>
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<td>Ontological and Moral Arguments</td>
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<td>Pragmatic and Other Arguments</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Apologetic Method</td>
<td>The Problem of Evil</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Different Approaches to the Problem of Evil</td>
<td>Can I Trust a God Who Would Command Genocide?</td>
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**CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE**

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<td>Miracles</td>
<td>Chapter 31</td>
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<td>Do You Have to Choose Between Science &amp; Faith?</td>
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**MIRACLES AND THE EXCLUSIVITY OF CHRIST**

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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Is Jesus Really the Only Savior?</td>
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<td>What About People Who Never Hear of Jesus?</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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Important Dates

**Spring 2019**

- New Year’s Day (offices closed) | January 1, 2019
- Final Day for Tuition Payment | January 18, 2019
- Registration Deadline for Spring Internet Courses | January 18, 2019
- Martin Luther King Day (No classes; offices closed) | January 21, 2019
- Late Student Registration | January 22, 2019
- Semester Begins (Including Internet classes) | January 22, 2019
- Last Day to Drop/Add | February 1, 2019
- Last Day to Apply Spring Graduation | February 15, 2019
- Mardi Gras (Offices closed; no classes on main campus; no CIV classes from NOLA) | March 5, 2019
- Spring Break (Offices open) | March 18-22, 2019
- Good Friday (Offices closed, no classes) | April 19, 2019
- Graduation for Leavell College | May 17, 2019
- Graduate School Spring Graduation (10:00am) | May 18, 2019

**Suggested Bibliography**


InterVarsity, 2017.


