Christian Apologetics PHIL5301  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Defend 2020 Apologetics Conference  
January 6-10, 2020  
Robert B. Stewart  
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Seminary 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 Value Focus  
The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Core Values Addressed  
The course will address the core values Doctrinal Integrity and Mission Focus by giving attention to defending and presenting Christian beliefs particularly as they relate to Christian evangelism. Servant Leadership will be addressed as well in that Christian apologists must model humility.

Competencies Addressed  
The competencies of Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, and Spiritual and Character Formation will be addressed.

Course Description  
This course examines barriers to Christian faith as well as efforts to provide convincing presentations of Christian faith. Attention is given to biblical foundations, historical development, apologetic method, and contemporary issues related to apologetics.

Student Learning Outcomes  
By the end of the course, students should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of how to defend and support Christian belief to academic and ministerial issues.
2. Value the following:
   ● Intellectual accountability in relation to issues of ultimate concern to Christian faith.
   ● Convincing presentations of Christian faith.
3. Be able to present the Christian faith in a reasonable and attractive form to skeptics and other non-Christians.

Required Textbooks


**Course Requirements**

1. **Lecture Attendance.** Students are required to attend all sessions of the *Defend 2020* Christian Apologetics Conference. **Students must take a picture of themselves wearing their conference name badges on stage in front of the conference backdrop and post it to Blackboard.**

2. **Required Reading.** Students are required to read all of the two required textbooks. Students are not required to review these two books, nor may they review either of the required books in lieu of one of the books listed for book reviews. **Students must affirm on Blackboard that they have done this.**

3. **Book Reviews.** Each student is required to review 2 of the following books. **Students may not duplicate book reviews from any other course for this course.** If a student wishes to substitute another book in place of one of the books on the list below, he or she must get the professor’s permission in an email to do so.


Reviews should include: (1) some professional biographical data concerning the author; (2) a summary of the book; (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. All grammar and citations in the reviews should follow Turabian form. Reviews should be 5-7 double-spaced pages (which won’t be difficult if students include all of the above criteria). **Book Reviews are due 7 weeks after the final day of the Defend 2020 Apologetics Conference (February 21, 2020).**

4. **EMNR/ISCA Conference Attendance OR Session Summaries.** Students must do ONE or the other:

- **Attend the joint conference of the International Society of Christian Apologetics (ISCA) and Evangelical Missions to Non-Christian Religions (EMNR).** The ISCA/EMNR conference will be on the NOBTS campus March 26-27, 2020. In addition to registering for and attending the conference, the students will need to send an email with a picture of themselves and a non-NOBTS conference speaker (it can be a selfie) to Robert Stewart at rstewart@nobts.edu with a sentence or two stating that the picture demonstrates that they attended the conference. **Confirmation email and picture is due one week after the ISCA/EMNR Conference April 3, 2020.**

- **Write one-page, single-spaced summaries of 12 different breakout sessions from the Defend 2020 Christian Apologetics Conference.** Students taking more than one Defend 2020 course for NOBTS credit may not use any session summaries that they use for another course. Summaries should be submitted via Blackboard. **Summaries are due 15 weeks after the conclusion of the Defend 2020 Apologetics Conference (April 24, 2020).**
5. **Apologetics Research Paper.** Each student is required to submit a research paper on a topic related to Christian Apologetics, e.g., science and faith, a non-Christian religion, atheism, argument(s) for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the reliability of Scripture, and/or miracles, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, etc. The paper should be not less than 5,000 words nor more than 7,000 words in length (double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font). Papers must adhere to the Turabian style guide. Students may **NOT submit the same paper for this course and another NOBTS course.** Research papers are due 13 weeks after the final day of the *Defend 2020* Apologetics Conference (April 10, 2020).

**Grades** will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale: 93-100, A; 85-92, B; 77-84, C; 70-76, D; 0-69, F.

The final grade will be determined accordingly:

- Conference Attendance: 10%
- Required Reading: 10%
- Book Reviews: 20%
- Research Paper: 30%
- ISCA/EMNR Conference or Session Summaries: 30%
- Final Grade: 100%

**Extra Credit** may be earned for: (1) additional book reviews (students taking more than one course will not receive extra credit for book reviews from another class), additional session summaries, or attendance at approved apologetics events; or (2) attending the EMNR/ISCA conference AND writing the session summaries; or (3) attendance at ad hoc apologetics events in the spring semester for which the student has previously received the approval of the professor of record.
Suggested Bibliography


