A Survey of Feminist Theology CEWM 5385 (3 hr)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division

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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.

Purpose of the Course
The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the major theoretical and philosophical teachings of feminism in America, along with contemporary manifestations of feminist ideology in Christianity.

Core Value Focus
Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2013-2014 academic year that Core Value is Doctrinal Integrity.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed
This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. Biblical Exposition: The student will examine passages of scripture in order to understand the impact of feminism on life and the church.
2. *Christian Theological Heritage:* The student will explore theological and historical background for feminism in contrast to biblical womanhood.

3. *Disciple Making:* The student will develop spiritually in knowledge of secular and religious feminism.

4. *Interpersonal Skills:* The student will improve interpersonal skills among women.

5. *Servant Leadership:* The student will learn how to lead other women toward an accurate understanding of feminism and its impact on Christian women today.

6. *Spiritual and character formation:* The student will grow as a Christian woman personally and spiritually.

7. *Worship Leadership:* The student will increase skills for leading women in the church.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to explore that historical and theoretical foundations of American feminism. In additions, it will examine the impact of feminism on society and the church.

**Learning Objectives**

By the completion of this course, each student should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Understand the origin and historical development of feminism as a cultural force in American society and as a religious force in mainstream Protestantism.
2. Understand the origin, historical development, and major tenets of feminism within evangelical Christianity.
3. Discuss the works of significant feminist authors – secular, religious and evangelical.
4. Read and evaluate numerous sources which discuss feminism from a biblical perspective.
5. Identify the impact of feminism upon current thinking regarding male and female roles.
6. Articulate and defend personal convictions regarding feminism and the outworking of biblical teaching on gender roles in daily life and ministry.

**Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.


Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study. Topics will include:

1. Definition of Terms
2. Feminism as a Cultural Force
3. The Problem without a Name
4. Biology Equals Destiny
5. The Personal Becomes Political
6. Consciousness Raising
7. Women’s Studies
8. Woman-Centered Analysis
9. The First Sex
10. Changing of the Gods
11. The Feminist Metaphysic
12. “Naming”
13. Contemporary Feminism
14. The Future of Feminism
15. Impact on Culture
16. A Problem in the Church
17. The Church and the Second Sex
18. Feminist Liberation Theology
19. Woman-Centered Analysis of Theology
20. “Herstory”
21. The Feminization of God
22. Household of Freedom
23. Authority and Naming
24. Godding
25. Women-Church
26. Re-imagining God
27. Inevitable Intersection
28. Slippery Slope
29. The History of Biblical Feminism
30. Contemporary Biblical Feminism
31. Hermeneutical Considerations
32. Feminist Revision of Trinitarian Doctrine
33. Fighting on Two Fronts
34. The Right to Name
35. The Challenge of Feminism
36. The Future of Feminism
37. Considerations for Ministry

Teaching Method. This course will utilize lecture and interactive discovery-learning and will be team-taught. The student should expect different presentation formats to enhance the learning motif.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Students will attend class according to the graduate catalog.

2. Students will read the assigned textbooks and provide a written statement of completion.

3. Students will write a research paper on a topic related to feminism such as sex trafficking, abortion, gay marriage, violence against women, etc. The paper should be ten to fifteen pages including ten to fifteen sources, typed double spaced following A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate Turabian, published by University of Chicago Press.

4. Students will review and critique a major evangelical feminist work (see below). This paper should be 12-15 typed, double spaced pages in length (3,000—3,750 words). The goal of this assignment is to exercise your ability to logically analyze and evaluate biblical feminism. Because this is a major research-based book review, it is expected that you will refer to a minimum of five (5) reference sources in your footnotes and bibliography.
Choose one of the following evangelical feminist books to critique (review of a book not on this list requires permission of the professor):


5. Students will write an annotated bibliography for the secondary text and four other books on the bibliography. The annotated bibliographies should be 1-2 paragraphs containing basic bibliographic information and a brief summary of the book.

6. Students will complete a take-home final examination.

Mail the textbook reading statement, research paper, annotated bibliographies, and take-home final examination to Dr. Rhonda Kelley, N.O.B.T.S., 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 or email it to rkelley@nobts.edu. Requirements must be received by the end of each semester or the student will receive a course grade of an “F”. Students may request an incomplete in the course in case of emergency.

**Course Evaluation**
This course will follow the grading system for the Graduate School.

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\begin{array}{c|c}
A = 93-100 & 1/4 = \text{Research Paper} \\
B = 85-92 & 1/4 = 5 \text{ Annotated Bibliographies} \\
C = 77-84 & 1/4 = \text{Review and Critique} \\
D = 70-76 & 1/4 = \text{Final} \\
F = \text{Below 70} & \\
\end{array}
\]
Course Policies
The student will be expected to have access to online resources to download teaching and presentation documents in the Seminary’s BlackBoard system.

Students who choose to present assignments via electronic mediums need to present those documents in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format. WordPerfect and PDF files will not be accepted for grade via electronic format.

The absence policy of the Seminary will be strictly enforced. For a 3-hour course, the student may miss no more than 9 hours of instruction. Examinations and case studies will be given and graded on the days announced. The concept of a make-up examination does not exist.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Honesty Policy
All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Course Schedule
Session One
  Introduction
  Definition of Terms
Session Two
  Feminism as a Cultural Force
  The Problem without a Name
Session Three
  Biology Equals Destiny
  The Personal Becomes Political
Session Four
  Consciousness Raising
  Women’s Studies
  Woman-Centered Analysis
Session Five
  The First Sex
  Changing of the Gods
Session Six
   The Feminist Metaphysic
   “Naming”
Session Seven
   Contemporary Feminism
   The Future of Feminism
   Impact on Culture
Session Eight
   A Problem in the Church
   The Church and the Second Sex
   Feminist Liberation Theology
   Woman-Centered Analysis of Theology
Session Nine
   “Herstory”
   The Feminization of God
Session Ten
   Household of Freedom
   Authority and Naming
   Godding
Session Eleven
   Women-Church
   Re-imagining God
   Inevitable Intersection
   Slippery Slope
Session Twelve
   The History of Biblical Feminism
   Contemporary Biblical Feminism
Session Thirteen
   Hermeneutical Considerations
Session Fourteen
   Feminist Revision of Trinitarian Doctrine
   Fighting on Two Fronts
Session Fifteen
   The Right to Name
   The Challenge of Feminism
Session Sixteen
   The Future of Feminism
   Considerations for Ministry

Selected Bibliography


de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. New York: Knopf, [1949, French; 1953,


**Web Sources:**