



**Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum PHIL6370**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Theological and Historical Studies**  
**Fall 2022, Monday 11:00 a.m.**  
**8/29, 9/26, 10/31, 11/28**

Dr. Robert B. Stewart  
Professor of Philosophy and Theology  
Office: Dodd 112  
Phone: ext. 3245  
Email: rstewart@nobts.edu

**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 course is a semester-length, practical learning experience that involves the student, through the supervision of an academic professor or an approved apologetic ministry. The student will practice the art of apologetics under supervision within an apologetic ministry. Several apologetics ministries have been approved for student supervision. Students may also request approval of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Institute of Christian Apologetics for other supervision options.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

In order to serve churches effectively through team ministry, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of apologetics to serving effectively in an applied ministry context.
2. Value applied ministry.
3. Grow in their ability to apply apologetics ministry skills.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Ken Boa and Robert Bowman. *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*. Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 2006.

Alister McGrath, *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers and Skeptics Find Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

## COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1. Students will regularly spend time in a ministry setting or working on a ministry project.
2. Students will communicate regularly with his/her apologetics mentor or the professor of record.
3. Students will read and critically interact with assigned materials.
4. Students will be involved in evaluation both from the professor of record or an apologetics mentor and a self-evaluation.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students will complete an approved apologetics ministry project. **The professor of record is the sole authority as to which projects are approved.** They will perform at least 4 hours of ministry a week at their place of ministry for at least 12 weeks during the semester they are enrolled in the course.
2. In consultation with the professor of record students will submit a **Practicum Approval Form to the professor of record. This must be done no later than 9/26/2022.**
3. The professor of record will review and approve or reject each Practicum proposal. Students need to contact the professor and discuss their project either in person, by email, or via a phone call. **The professor may suggest a project or explain what others have done in the past but it is the student's responsibility to submit his or her project idea to the professor for approval.**
4. Students will attend a monthly class session either in person or virtually through Blue Jeans. **Missing any of the monthly meetings without the professor's permission will result in a further assignment. Missing two sessions will result in failure of the course.**
5. Each student will submit a **Personal Evaluation Paper** at the end of the course. This evaluation should include a short summary of how the student's apologetics project has helped in personal growth as an apologist and Christian minister during this semester, and should include reflections on how the student's project related to his or her call to ministry. The student should list any problems or successes related to his or her professional development. This evaluation should be 2-3 double-spaced pages in length.
6. Students must submit a book review of both required books. Reviews should include: (1) some professional 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. The reviews should follow Turabian form. Reviews should be 5-7 double-spaced pages. A third book review will be assigned if a student misses one of the monthly meetings without the professor's permission.

## PAST PROJECTS

Students in the past have:

- Created a course for Leavell College that he then taught as a for-credit Leavell College class (he was asked to repeat it the following year and that course is now in the Leavell College catalog)
- Taught a series in a church on an apologetics topic or an assortment of apologetics topics. (Numerous students have chosen this option. Note Well: If you choose this option, you need to receive approval of your topic(s) from the professor of record.)
- Served as an intern for an apologetics ministry such as Watchman Fellowship or Ratio Christi. (This may include the NOBTS Institute for Christian Apologetics. If you want to serve as an intern for the NOBTS Institute for Christian Apologetics, you need to be a residential student in New Orleans.)
- Direct an Apologetics Conference in your church or general area. Several students have chosen this option. One was the Ratio Christi campus director at the University of Mississippi.
- Take part in an evangelistic mission trip to an area that is not majority evangelical Christian in terms of culture. We've had students take mission trips to Utah, Iraq, China, etc.
- Make a series of video presentations that can be posted to YouTube.
- Create a workbook of how apologetics relates to issues in counseling.
- Teach a series of lessons at different churches on an apologetics theme. (We had a student with a masters in chemistry degree speak in six different local churches on the relationship between science and Christianity.)
- Lead a specialized apologetics Bible Study for a targeted audience. (We had an attorney lead a semester of lessons for his local Christian Attorneys Society group; we also had a judge lead a series of lessons for interested attorneys in his area.)
- Teach a series of apologetics lessons for age-specific groups. (We had a student teach a series of lessons for elementary children at her local church. She hopes to publish the fruit of it as a book teaching parents how to talk their children about apologetics issues.)

These are examples from past projects. Feel free to create your own project. Do NOT FEEL FREE to approve your own project. All projects have to be approved by the professor of record.

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for the master's programs is as follows:

A – 93-100

B – 85-92

C – 77-84

D – 70-76

F – Below 70

## ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND RESOURCES

### Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas.NOBTS.com](http://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](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

[https://www.nobts.edu/\\_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf](https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf)

### Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>8/29</b>	<b>Introduction to the course</b>
<b>9/26</b>	<b>Book Review &amp; Discussion of McGrath, <i>Mere Apologetics</i></b>
<b>10/31</b>	<b>Book Review &amp; Discussion of Boa &amp; Bowman, <i>Faith Has Its Reasons</i></b>
<b>11/28</b>	<b>Personal Perspectives &amp; Discussion of Apologetics Projects</b>

## SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adams, Marilyn, and Adams, Robert, eds. *The Problem of Evil*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Boa, Kenneth D., and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *An Unchanging Faith in a Changing World: Understanding and Responding to Issues that Christians Face Today*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Oliver, 1997.
- . *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.
- Bowman, Robert M. Jr., Ed Komoszewski, and Darrell L. Bock, *Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Brooks, Christopher. *Urban Apologetics: Why the Gospel is Good News for the City*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2014.
- Brown, Colin. *Christianity and Western Thought*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1990.
- . *Miracles and the Critical Mind*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- . *Philosophy and the Christian Faith*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 1968.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.
- Bush, L. Russ. *Classical Readings in Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Academie, 1983.
- Carson, D.A. *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- . *Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Clark, David K. *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Clark, Kelly James. *Return to Reason*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Collins, Francis S. *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. New York: Free Press, 2007.
- Copan, Paul. *True for You But Not for Me: Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Copan, Paul. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Counterpoint series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. Third Edition. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008.
- Davis, Stephen T., ed. *Encountering Evil: Live Options in Theodicy*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1973.
- Dembski, William. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999.
- . *Mere Creation: Science, Faith and Intelligent Design*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.
- . *Signs of Intelligence: Understanding Intelligent Design*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.
- Dembski, William A. and Jay Wesley Richards, eds. *Unapologetic Apologetics: Meeting the Challenges of Theological Studies*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001.
- Dyrness, William. *Christian Apologetics in a World Community*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1983.

- Evans, Craig A. *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- Evans, C. Stephen. *Faith Beyond Reason: A Kierkegaardian Account*. Reason & Religion. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- . *The Historical Christ and the Jesus of Faith: The Incarnational Narrative as History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- . *Why Believe? Reason and Mystery as Pointers to God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1996.
- Flew, Antony. *God and Philosophy*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1996.
- Frame, John M. *Apologetics to the Glory of God: An Introduction*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1994.
- Geisler, Norman. *Philosophy of Religion*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974.
- . *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Groothuis, Douglas. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Dutton, 2008.
- Kreeft, Peter. *A Summa of the "Summa": The Essential Philosophical Passages of St. Thomas Aquinas' "Summa Theologica" Edited and Explained for Beginners*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1990.
- . *Fundamentals of the Faith: Essays in Christian Apologetics*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1988.
- . *Making Sense out of Suffering*. Ann Arbor: Servant, 1986.
- Kreeft, Peter, and Ronald K. Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1994.
- Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.
- Lewis, C. S. *Miracles*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.
- Lewis, Gordon R. *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims: Approaches to Christian Apologetics*. Chicago: Moody, 1976.
- Mayers, Ronald B. *Balanced Apologetics: Using Evidences and Presuppositions in Defense of the Faith*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1996. Reprint of *Both/And: A Balanced Apologetic*. Chicago: Moody, 1984.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Why God Won't Go Away: Is the New Atheism Running on Empty*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers and Skeptics Find Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
- Mitchell, Basil. *The Justification of Religious Belief*. New York: Seabury Press, 1974.
- Montgomery, John Warwick, ed. *Christianity for the Tough-minded: Essays in Support of an Intellectually Defensible Religious Commitment*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1973.
- . ed. *Evidence for Faith: Deciding the God Question, Cornell Symposium on Evidential Apologetics*, 1986. Dallas: Probe, 1991; distributed by Word Publishing.
- Moreland, J. P. *Christianity and the Nature of Science*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.
- . *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.

- Nash, Ronald. *Faith and Reason*. Grand Rapids: Academie, 1988.
- Pearcey, Nancy. *Finding Truth: 5 Principles for Unmasking Atheism, Secularism, and Other God Substitutes*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2015.
- . *Saving Leonardo: A Call to Resist the Secular Assault on Mind, Morals, and Meaning*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.
- . *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2004.
- Ramm, Bernard. *Varieties of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1961.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer*. 5 vols. Westchester, Ill.: Crossway, 1982.
- Spitzer, Robert J. *New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Sproul, R.C., Gerstner, John, and Lindsley, Arthur. *Classical Apologetics: A Rational Defense of the Christian Faith and a Critique of Presuppositional Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
- Stewart, Robert B. *Can Only One Religion Be True?: Paul Knitter and Harold Netland in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.
- . *The Future of Atheism: Alister McGrath and Daniel Dennett in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.
- . *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N. T. Wright in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- . *The Reliability of the New Testament: Bart Ehrman and Daniel B. Wallace in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011.
- . *The Message of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and Ben Witherington III in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Swinburne, Richard. *The Concept of Miracle*. London: Macmillan, 1970.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013.