



Supervised Apologetics Ministry Practicum PHIL6370
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Fall 2023, Monday 11:00 a.m.
8/28, 9/25, 10/30, 11/27

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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 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 9/25/2023.**
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 with the professor's permission will result in a further assignment. Missing two sessions will result in failure of the course. Missing a monthly meeting without permission, except in extreme emergencies, is reason for failing 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 with 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. **YOU MAY NOT APPROVE YOUR OWN PROJECT.** All projects must be approved by the professor of record.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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 or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. 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>

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

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| 8/28 | Introduction to the course |
| 9/25 | Book Review & Discussion of McGrath, <i>Mere Apologetics</i> |
| 10/30 | Book Review & Discussion of Boa & Bowman, <i>Faith Has Its Reasons</i> |
| 11/27 | Personal Perspectives & Discussion of Apologetics Projects |

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