



## **Philosophical Theology** **PHIL 6301**

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### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary prepares servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to contemporary philosophical issues related to the Christian concept of God. Issues addressed include the attributes of God, the coherence and intelligibility of the incarnation and the Trinity, and the solutions offered by a selection of contemporary philosophers addressing this topic. The focus will be upon personal reading, research, and writing.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will read broadly on God as understood and studied in contemporary philosophy of religion.
2. Students will become familiar with issues related to the Christian concept of God.
3. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of an issue related to the subject.
4. Students will research, summarize, and critique a contemporary philosopher or theologian related to his or her concept of God.

### **Required Texts**

Thomas V. Morris, *Our Idea of God: An Introduction to Philosophical Theology*. Vancouver: Regent College, 1997.

Oliver Crisp, *A Reader in Contemporary Philosophical Theology*. London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2009.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The seminar will utilize reading assignments, class discussion of the reading, a reading report, a research paper, a formal response to another student's paper, and a personal perspective on Philosophical Theology. The professor will also provide a critique of each paper individually for each student. The primary methodology will be individual research and writing, guided by the professor.

### **NOLA2U Flex Students**

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

- You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf> ).
- You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [**assignment by professor**] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
- All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
- Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

### **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. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
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.

### **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.

### **Style Guide**

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard 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>

## Course Requirements

**Reading Reports** should be between 4 and 6 single-spaced pages in length. The student presenting the reading report should prepare a copy for each student in the seminar and share it with the class—and be prepared to answer questions related to the material in the reading from other seminar members or the professor. The reading report should include a critique section in which student critiques the material in the reading assignment, which may include personal reflection. Additionally the report should conclude with 3 or 4 discussion questions that the student thinks will benefit the seminar’s discussion of the reading covered (50 points, due at assigned time).

**Research Papers** should be printed and distributed (or electronically submitted via email) to the seminar and professor (2 hard copies to the professor) **1 week prior to the due date** in order for each student to have adequate time to read the material. **No exceptions will be made! Failure to finish—and distribute—a paper by the due date is cause for dismissal from the seminar and failing the course.** (100 points, due at assigned time).

**Formal Responses** should be 3-4 single-spaced pages in length. Students writing formal responses to papers should email a copy of the response to each classmate and the professor a day before presenting the response in the seminar. Additionally the response should conclude with 3 to 5 discussion questions that the student thinks will benefit the seminar’s discussion of the paper (50 points, due at assigned time).

**Personal Perspectives** should be between 3-5 single-spaced pages in length. They are to be the student’s conclusions concerning Philosophical Theology based upon his or her reflection on the topic at the end of this course of study. They are, of course, tentative. They are not right or wrong, they are the student’s opinions. This assignment is an attempt to help the student put all the pieces together as much as possible at this point in time (50 points, due 5/11).

## Evaluation of Grade

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale and computed as follows:

Reading Report #1	50 points
Reading Report #2	50 points
Research Paper	100 points
Formal Response	50 points
<u>Personal Perspective</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	300 points

**Late papers** will be penalized two points per day.

### Rubric for Grading Research Papers

	%	Poorly	Below average	Average	Above average	Excellent
Follows NOBTS Style Guide, good grammar and style	10%					
Articulates thoughts clearly, coherently, & cogently	20%					
Defends one's own perspective well	15%					
Utilizes adequate documentation	15%					
Situates thinkers in their setting	10%					
Utilizes logical arguments	10%					
Utilizes Biblical languages & support	10%					
Notes key thinkers in historical theology	10%					

- Style guide – See note above.
- Coherent & cogent – Writing style is clear, coherent, and meaningful.
- Defend one's position – Be able to give good arguments for your perspective.
- Situates thinkers – Identify their historical setting, their education, key influences, what problems they are addressing.
- Logical arguments – Crystalize your argument in a simple set of statements in logical form.
- Biblical support – Cite references (not long quotes), utilize word studies when applicable.
- Key thinkers – Compare the thinkers you are addressing with other key theologians.

## Seminar Schedule

<b>When</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Presenter/ Respondent</b>
1/19	Introduction to the Course	Morris, chapter 1	Lemke
1/21	The Concept of God	Morris, chapter 2	
1/26	God's Goodness	Morris, chapter 3	
1/28	The Power of God	Morris, chapter 4	
2/2	God's Knowledge	Morris, chapter 5	
2/4	God's Being	Morris, chapter 6	
2/9	The Eternity of God	Morris, chapter 7	
2/11	Creation	Morris, chapter 8	
2/16*	God Incarnate & Triune	Morris, chapter 9	
2/18*	Sheehan's Shenanigans	Crisp, part 1, Plantinga	
2/23	The Bible Is True	Crisp, part 1, Davis	
2/25	True Words	Crisp, part 1, Wolterstorff	
3/2	Infallibility	Crisp, part 1, Helm	
3/4	Social Trinity & Pantheism	Crisp, part 2, Plantinga	
3/9	A Latin Trinity	Crisp, part 2, Leftow	
3/11	Three Persons, One Being	Crisp, part 2, von Inwagen	
3/16-18	Spring Break		
3/23	The Incarnation: Kenosis	Crisp, part 3, Forrest	
3/25	Aquinas' Metaphysics of the Incarnation	Crisp, part 3, Stump	
3/30	Incarnation: Molinist Possibilities	Crisp, part 3, Flint	
4/1	Rationality & Christian Revelation	Crisp, part 3, Morris	
4/6	Penal Non-Substitution	Crisp, part 5, Crisp	
4/8	Do We Believe in Penal Substitution?	Crisp, part 5, Lewis	
4/13	Abelard on Atonement	Crisp, part 5, Quinn	
4/15	The Christian Scheme of Salvation	Crisp, part 5, Swinburne	
4/20	Paper 1		
4/22	Paper 2		
4/27	Paper 3		
4/29	Paper 4		
5/4	Paper 5		
5/6	Paper 6		
5/11	Paper 7		<b>Personal Perspective Due</b>

## Bibliography

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