

## **85290 Seminar in Christian Apologetics Fall 2008**

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

### **Seminar Description:**

An exploration of the foundational issues in apologetics with special reference to the history of apologetics, various epistemological approaches and particular issues in the discipline.

### **Seminar Objectives:**

1. To provide a research environment for Th.M. and Ph.D. students on matters related to the advanced study of Christian apologetics.
2. To deepen the participants understanding of the historical developments of the discipline of apologetics.
3. To understand and be able to defend their own epistemological approach to apologetics (i.e., evidentialism, presuppositionalism, foundationalism, combinationalism, etc.).
4. To master, as evidenced by a substantial research paper, certain particular topics and issues within apologetics today.

### **Seminar Reading List:**

*History of Apologetics*, by Avery Dulles (Wipf & Stock)

*Faith Has its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*  
by Kenneth Boa

*Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis* by Greg Bahnsen

Alvin Plantinga, ed. *Faith and Rationality: Reason and Belief in God* (U. of Notre Dame Press, 1983) (and appropriate materials from *Warrant* describing his apologetic approach)

Paul Helm *Faith and Understanding* (Eerdmans, 1997)

*Encountering Religious Pluralism: The Challenge to Christian Faith and Mission*, by Harold Netland.

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*

C. Stephen Evans, *The Historical Christ & the Jesus of Faith* (Oxford)

*Miracles: A Philosophical Analysis*, by Robert Sloan Lee (a 2004 dissertation which the professor will furnish).

*The Stones Cry Out*, Randall Price

### **Seminar Participant Responsibilities:**

The students are expected to attend and fully participate in all seminar sessions. They should come to class having read and prepared to discuss the reading assignments, or prepared to present their research paper as appropriate.

### **Seminar course requirements:**

Each student will prepare and present a term paper from 25 to 30 pages long (and no limit on footnotes). The style will follow the Southern Seminary Manual of Style (available in the Lifeway Bookstore). Copies of the paper should be available to the faculty person and each class participant one week before the class presentation date. In preparation for the paper, the student should choose (and get approved by the professor) a research paper topic by the **third** week of the class and have a research **bibliography** by the fifth week (the bibliography should include 8-15 books and 30+ journal articles). Each student will also be prepared to lead in class discussions over the assigned reading materials from the assigned textbooks. Students will rotate in leading the discussion and the number of times that a student leads in discussion depends on the number of students in the class. (This is done by preparing a series of questions and topics that need to be discussed in reference to the assigned readings, as well as having an outline that summarizes the main points and arguments of the assigned reading. Two issues, among others, that the students should address in all of the readings is (1) what is the role, function and relationship of reason to faith and (2) what is the place of evidences in the various systems).

### **Student evaluations:**

1. Research paper: 50% of course grade.
2. Lead in class discussion: 30% of course grade.
3. Class participation in discussions: 20% of course grade.
4. Grades below B are not sufficient for crediting a seminar in the Ph.D. or Th.M. academic program.

Additional bibliography attached.