



Theology of C. S. Lewis THEO6314/PHIL6314
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Defend the Faith Conference 2023

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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

Students will examine the life and beliefs of Clive Staples Lewis, focusing especially upon his theological, philosophical, and apologetic beliefs and practices. Special attention will be given to Lewis's writings.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students will:

1. Understand the theological and philosophical convictions of C. S. Lewis.
2. Understand the apologetic issues addressed by C. S. Lewis and how he treats them.
3. Understand Lewis's life and how his experiences shaped him.
4. Value the following:
 - Intellectual accountability in relation to the issues of ultimate concern to Christian faith.
 - Convincing presentations of Christian faith.
 - Insightful and effective defenses of the Christian faith.
 - Clear ways of stating the Christian hope to those who either reject or question the truth claims of Christian theology.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of a particular issue related to C. S. Lewis by writing a research paper addressing the selected topic.

Required Textbooks

McGrath, Alister. *C. S. Lewis—A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2016.

Williams, Donald T. *Deeper Magic: The Theology Behind the Writings of C. S. Lewis*. Baltimore: Square Halo Books, 2016.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

***The C. S. Lewis Signature Classics, published by HarperCollins, contains 8 of Lewis's best-known books for a very affordable price on Amazon.**

Course Requirements

1. Lecture Attendance. Students are required to attend all sessions of the *Defend 2023* Christian Apologetics Conference.

2. Required Reading. Students are required to read all of the three required textbooks. Students are not required to review these books, nor may they review any of the required books in lieu of one of the books listed for book reviews.

3. Book Reviews. Each student is required to review **2** of the following books. **Students may not duplicate book reviews from any other course for this course.** If a student wishes to substitute another book in place of one of the books on the list below, he or she must get the professor's permission in an email to do so.

Lewis, C. S. *Miracles*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

———. *Reflections on the Psalms*. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1986.

———. *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1966.

———. *The Four Loves*. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1971.

———. *The Great Divorce*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

———. *The Problem of Pain*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

———. *The Screwtape Letters*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

———. *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

———. *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1980.

Reviews should include: (1) some professional biographical data concerning the author; (2) a summary of the book; (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. All grammar and citations in the reviews should follow Turabian form. Reviews should be 4-6 double-spaced pages (which won't be difficult if students include all of the above criteria). **Book Reviews are due 6 weeks after the final day of the Defend 2023 Apologetics Conference (February 17, 2023).**

4. **Session Summaries.**

Write one-page, single-spaced summaries of **10 different** breakout sessions from the *Defend 2023* Christian Apologetics Conference. Students taking more than one *Defend 2023* course for NOBTS credit may not use any session summaries that they use for another course. Summaries should be submitted via Canvas. **Summaries are due 14 weeks after the conclusion of the *Defend 2023* Apologetics Conference (April 14, 2023).**

5. Research Paper. Each student is required to submit a research paper on a topic related to C. S. Lewis. It may be on any issue addressed by Lewis that relates to Christianity or religion in general. The paper should have a sufficiently defined subject, a detailed description of how Lewis addresses the issue, and a rational, biblical, and theological critique of his treatment of the issue. The paper should be not less than 2,500 words nor more than 4,000 words, references included (double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font). Papers must adhere to the Turabian style guide. **Students may NOT submit the same paper for this course and another NOBTS course. Research papers are due 12 weeks after the final day of the *Defend 2023* Apologetics Conference (March 31, 2023).**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale: 93-100, A; 85-92, B; 77-84, C; 70-76, D; 0-69, F.

The final grade will be determined accordingly:

Conference Attendance	10%
Required Reading	10%
Book Reviews	20%
Research Paper	30%
<u>Session Summaries</u>	<u>30%</u>
Final Grade	100%

Extra Credit may be earned for: (1) additional book reviews (students taking more than one course will not receive extra credit for book reviews from another class), additional session summaries, or attendance at approved apologetics events; or (2) attendance at *ad hoc* apologetics events in the spring semester for which the student has previously received the approval of the professor of record.

Technical Assistance

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

1. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/- Email for general technical questions/support requests.
2. Selfserve@nobts.edu- Email technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
3. Canvas@nobts.edu Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas.nobts.edu / nobts.instructure.com.

4. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
5. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.

[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).

Suggested Bibliography

Primary Sources

- C. S. Lewis, A Grief Observed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.*
- . *A Year with C. S. Lewis: Daily Readings from His Classic Works. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2003.*
- . *All My Road Before Me: The Diary of C. S. Lewis, 1922-1927. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 2006.*
- . *God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics. Edited by Walter Hooper. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.*
- . *Letters to an American Lady. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.*
- . *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 2002.*
- . *Mere Christianity. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.*
- . *Miracles. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.*
- . *Reflections on the Psalms. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1986.*
- . *Space Trilogy: Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, and That Hideous Strength. New York: Scribner, 1996.*
- . *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1966.*
- . *The Abolition of Man; New Edition.. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 20, 2001.*
- . *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis: Family Letters, 1905-1931, Volume I. Edited by Walter Hooper. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004.*
- . *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis: Books, Broadcasts, and the War, 1931-1949, Volume II. Edited by Walter Hooper. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004.*
- . *The Four Loves. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1971.*
- . *The Great Divorce. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.*
- . *The Joyful Christian: 127 Readings from C. S. Lewis. New York: Touchstone, 1977.*
- . *The Problem of Pain. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.*
- . *The Screwtape Letters. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.*

———. *The Weight of Glory*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

———. *The World's Last Night: And Other Essays*. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 2002.

———. *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1980.

Secondary Sources

- Scott R. Burson and Jerry L. Walls, C. S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer: Lessons for a New Century from the Most Influential Apologists of Our Time. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.*
- Lyle W. Dorsett, Seeking the Secret Place: The Spiritual Formation of C. S. Lewis. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2004.*
- David C. Downing, The Most Reluctant Convert: C. S. Lewis's Journey to Faith. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002.*
- Colin Duriez and David Porter, The Inklings Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to the Lives, Thought and Writings of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield and Their Friends. Saint Louis: Chalice, 2001.*
- Colin Duriez, Tolkien and C.S. Lewis: The Gift of Friendship. Mahwah, NJ: Hidden Spring, 2003.*
- Paul F. Ford, Companion to Narnia, Revised Edition: A Complete Guide to the Magical World of C.S. Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.*
- Janine Goffar, The C.S. Lewis Index: A Comprehensive Guide to Lewis's Writings and Ideas. Wheaton: Crossway, 1998.*
- Roger Lancelyn Green and Walter Hooper, C. S. Lewis: A Biography. San Diego, New York, London: Harvest, 1994.*
- Douglas H. Gresham, Jack's Life: A Memory of C.S. Lewis. Nashville: B&H, 2005.*
- _____. Lenten Lands: My Childhood with Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1994.*
- Walter Hooper, C.S. Lewis: A Complete Guide to His Life & Works. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998.*
- Art Lindsley, C. S. Lewis's Case for Christ: Insights from Reason, Imagination and Faith. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2005.*
- Louis Markos, Lewis Agonistes: How C.S. Lewis Can Train Us to Wrestle With the Modern and Postmodern World. Nashville: B&H, 2003.*
- Wayne Martindale and Jerry Root, The Quotable Lewis. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1989.*
- Richard L. Purtill, C.S. Lewis's Case for Christian Faith. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1985.*
- Victor Reppert, C.S. Lewis's Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.*
- George Sayer, Jack: A Life of C.S. Lewis. Wheaton: Crossway, 1994.*
- Jeffrey D. Schultz and John West, Jr., The C. S. Lewis Readers' Encyclopedia. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.*
- Sheldon Vanauken, A Severe Mercy: With 18 Letters by C. S. Lewis. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1987.*

Will Vaus, Mere Theology: A Guide to the Thought of C.S. Lewis. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.

Richard J. Wagner, C.S. Lewis & Narnia For Dummies. Hoboken: Wiley, 2005.

Andrew Walker and James Patrick, eds., Rumours of Heaven: Essays in Celebration of C. S. Lewis. Surrey: Eagle, 1998.