

Course Syllabus

I. Course description

This course is an introduction to the field of apologetics and, in some respects, its relationship to biblical evangelism. It will provide a basis for the evaluation of various apologetic systems such as classical, evidential, cumulative case, presuppositional, historical, experiential, and reformed epistemological apologetics. This course also will introduce the student to apologetics in biblical evangelism to help him understand and incorporate a variety of apologetic tools to precede and use with the evangelistic discipline.

II. Course objectives

This course is designed to help each student:

- A. Learn how to evaluate the principles and methods of various apologetic systems.
- B. Grow in the ability to use apologetics in pre-evangelism and evangelism.
- C. Receive friendly, direct, correction and exhortation related to his apologetics.
- D. Move closer to and grow more richly in his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Course materials

- A. Professor's notes and handouts
- B. *Classical Apologetics* by R.C. Sproul, John Gerstner, and Arthur Lindsley
- C. *To Everyone an Answer* by Francis J. Beckwith, William Lane Craig, and J. P. Moreland

IV. Course requirements

- A. Attendance of and participation in all classes
- B. Book reviews
 1. Masters students will read each of the two assigned textbooks and critique them chapter by chapter, evaluating the author's inclusion of material into his argument for the book.
 2. Bachelor and certificate students will only read and review Sproul, Gerstner, and Lindsley and do the above critique.
 3. Students will write approximately 3 pages per review.

C. Papers

From the following six subjects masters students will choose three topics to write papers on, bachelor students will choose two, and certificate students will choose one.

1. The noetic effects of sin in non-Christians in relation to general revelation and knowing God. Discuss the major views of the noetic effects of sin on the mind and heart. Also discuss human ability in understanding God's revelation. Does man's deadness in sin (Ephesians 2:1) mean that he cannot know God from general revelation? Also include a discussion of 1 Corinthians 2:14 in relation to the noetic effects of sin in non-Christians. An additional option for this paper is to compare Calvin's views of the noetic affects of sin on the human mind with Van Til's view.
2. The work of the Holy Spirit in apologetics. How does the Holy Spirit work in the presentation of apologetic evidences? How does the Spirit work in relation to the non-Christian's understanding of truth in Scripture and its implication to the non-Christian? How does the Spirit work in relation to the full assurances of Christianity and a person believing in God's saving plan in Christ?
3. The general need for apologetics. How does the condition of the non-Christian demand the need for apologetics generally? Also, how is the need today influenced by religious pluralism, relativism, inclusivism, exclusivism, naturalism, and postmodernism?
4. Discuss whether the theistic arguments for the existence of God are proofs, probabilities, or impossibilities in their respective arguments. Does any one argument prove the existence of God? Do the four major arguments in concert prove the existence of God? Briefly state each theistic argument. Also state which view you hold, cogently presenting and arguing against the other positions.
5. Discuss the relationship between reason and faith in believing in the existence of God and the historical evidences leading to the Lord Jesus Christ in salvation. Relate your discussion to the various apologetic methods. Argue both philosophically (rationally) and biblically.
6. Discuss the differences between general and special revelation in relation to belief in theism and Christian theism. Include Romans 1:18-32 (creation) and 2:12-16 (the law of God written on the heart) in your discussion.

Note: All papers (including book reviews) shall be 10-12 pages with 1" margins, double spaced with New Times Roman 14 font (or equivalent), each with a cover page. General guidelines for papers will also be discussed in class.

V. Course grading

Thirty five-percent of the student's grade will be based on class attendance and participation, twenty-five percent on reading and book reviews, and forty percent on papers. Excused absences will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Absence due to unforeseen circumstances will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the professor. The following grading system will be used:

A.....	96–100
A-.....	94–95
B+.....	92–93
B.....	88–91
B-.....	86–87
C+.....	84–85
C.....	80–83
C-.....	78–79
D+.....	76–77
D.....	72–75
D-.....	70–71
F.....	69 and below

VI. Course schedule

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | January 16 | Orientation, discussion of resource books and course requirements
Lesson 1: Introduction to apologetics |
| 2 | January 23 | Lesson 2: Introduction to apologetics
Lesson 3: The major methods of apologetics
Due: Paper selections |
| 3 | January 30 | Lesson 4: The major methods of apologetics
Lesson 5: The major methods of apologetics
Due: First paper (#1 Masters) |
| 4 | February 6 | Lesson 6: Theistic argument in apologetics
Lesson 7: Theistic argument in apologetics |
| 5 | February 13 | Lesson 8: Epistemology in apologetics
Lesson 9: Revelation in relation to apologetics |
| 6 | February 20 | Lesson 10: Noetic effects of sin in relation to apologetics
Lesson 11: Reason and faith in relation to apologetics
Due: Book review – <i>Classical Apologetics</i> |
| 7 | February 27 | Lesson 12: Holy Spirit in apologetics
Lesson 13: Apologetic strategy: Existence of God
Due: Second paper (#2 Masters, #1 Bachelors) |
| 8 | March 6 | Lesson 14: Apologetic strategy: Trustworthiness of Scripture
Lesson 15: Apologetic strategy: Validity of Scripture writers |
| 9 | March 13
8:00-9:00 | Lesson 16: Apologetic strategy: Validity of miracles
Lesson 17: Apologetic strategy: Validity of Christ's claims
Lesson 18: Apologetic strategy: Validity of Christ's resurrection |

10 March 20 Lesson 19: Apologetic strategy: Validity of prophecy
Lesson 20: Apologetics discussion
8:00-9:00 Lesson 21: Apologetics discussion
Due: Third paper (#3 Masters, #2 Bachelors, #1 Certificate)
Due: Book review – *To Everyone an Answer*

Selected Bibliography for Apologetics¹

- Beckwith, Francis J., William Lane Craig and J. P. Moreland, ed. *To Everyone an Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York: Touchstone, 1996.
- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.
- Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1987.
- Bock, Darrell L. *Breaking the Da Vinci Code*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Bowman, Robert M., Jr. *Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.
- Clark, David K. and Norman L. Geisler. *Apologetics in the New Age: A Christian Critique of Pantheism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.
- Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Craig, William Lane. *The Existence of God and the Beginning of the Universe*. San Bernardino, Ca.: Here's Life Publishers, 1979.
- Descartes, Rene. *Mediations on First Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Educational Publishing, 1984.
- Dembski, William A. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science & Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Dillow, Joseph C. *The Waters Above: Earth's Pre-Flood Vapor Canopy*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1982.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical responses to the Challenge of Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Feinberg, John S. *The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problems of Evil*. Rev. ed. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004.
- Frame, John. *Apologetics to the Glory of God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1994.
- Fraser, Gordon H. *What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?* Chicago: Moody Press, 1964.

¹ This bibliography is largely from Professor Doug Bozung's syllabus for Apologetics, Front Range Bible Institute, spring 2007.

- Garlow, James L. and Peter Jones. *Cracking Da Vinci's Code*. Colorado Springs: Cook Communications Ministries, 2005.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999.
- _____. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.
- _____. *Miracles and Modern Thought*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.
- _____. *The Roots of Evil*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Geisler, Norman L. and J. Kerby Anderson. *Origin Science: A Proposal for the Creation-Evolution Controversy*. Baker Book House, 1987.
- Gish, Duane T. *Evolution: The Challenge of the Fossil Record*. El Cajon, Cal.: Creation-Life Publishers, 1985.
- Groothuis, Douglas R. *Unmasking the New Age*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1986.
- Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. I. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986.
- Hume, David. *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Stilwell: Digireads.com Book, 2005.
- Johnson, Phillip E. *Darwin on Trial*. Washington: Regnery Gateway, 1991.
- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Kreft, Peter & Tacelli, Ronald K. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Lewis, C. S. *God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics*. ed. Walter Hopper. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.
- _____. *Mere Christianity*. Rev. ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.
- _____. *Miracles*. Rev. ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.
- Locke, John. *The Reasonableness of Christianity with A Discourse of Miracles and Part of A Third Letter Concerning Toleration*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1958
- Lubenow, Marvin L. *Bones of Contention: A Creationist Assessment of Human Fossils*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Martin, Walter R. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Rev. ed. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1977.
- McDowell, Josh. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. Vol. 1. Arrowhead Springs, Ca.: Campus Crusade for Christ, 1972.

- _____. *More Evidence that Demands a Verdict. Vol. 2.* Arrowhead Springs, Ca.: Campus Crusade for Christ, 1975.
- _____. *More Than a Carpenter.* Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1977.
- McWilliams, Warren. *Where is the God of Justice? Biblical Perspectives on Suffering.* Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005.
- Moreland, J. P. *Love Your God with All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul.* Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.
- _____. *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1987.
- Morrison, Frank. *Who Moved the Stone?* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, n.d.
- Nash, Ronald H. *Life's Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
- _____. *The Word of God and the Mind of Man.* Phillipsburg, N. J.: P&R Publishing, 1982.
- Pinnock, Clark H. *Set Forth Your Case.* Chicago: Moody Press, 1971.
- Plantinga, Alvin. *Warranted Christian Belief.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Plantinga, Alvin and Nicholas Wolterstorff, ed. *Faith and Rationality: Reason and Belief in God.* Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1983.
- Reed, David A. and John R. Farkas. *Mormons: Answered Verse by Verse.* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Ross, Hugh, Kenneth Samples and Mark Clark. *Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men: A Rational Christian Look at UFOs and Extraterrestrials.* Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.
- Runes, Dagobert D. *Dictionary of Philosophy.* Totowa: Rowan & Allanheld, 1983.
- Samples, Kenneth Richard. *Without a Doubt: Answering the 20 Toughest Faith Questions.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *Escape from Reason.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1968.
- _____. *He is There and He is Not Silent.* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1972.
- _____. *The God Who is There.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1968.
- Shedd, William G. T. *Dogmatic Theology.* Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 2003

- Sproul, R. C., John Gerstner and Arthur Lindsley. *Classical Apologetics: A Rational Defense of the Christian Faith and a Critique of Presuppositional Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Steidl, Paul M. *The Earth, the Stars, and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.
- Stroebel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- _____. *The Case for Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Strong, Augustus H. *Systematic Theology*. Westwood: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1907.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *Christian Apologetics*. 2^d ed. ed. William Edgar. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003.
- _____. *The Defense of the Faith*. 3^d ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1967.
- Walker, Peter. *The Weekend that Changed the World: The Mystery of Jerusalem's Empty Tomb*. London: HarperCollins, 1999.
- Wells, Jonathan. *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth?* Washington: Regnery Publishing, 2000.
- _____. *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Darwinism and Intelligent Design*. Washington: Regnery Publishing, 2006.
- Whitcomb, John C., Jr. *The World That Perished*. Winona Lake, Ind.: BMH Books, 1973.
- Whitcomb, John C., Jr. and Henry M. Morris. *The Genesis Flood: The Biblical Record and Its Scientific Implications*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1961.
- Wilder-Smith, A. E. *Man's Origin, Man's Destiny: A Critical Survey of the Principles of Evolution and Christianity*. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1975.
- Wolfe, David L. *Epistemology: The Justification of Belief*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1982.