

Syllabus for Apologetics and Evangelism (BST 701)
Front Range Bible Institute (Winter 2021)
Professor Tim Dane

I. Course description

- A. This course is an introduction to the field of apologetics and, in some respects, its relationship to biblical evangelism.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 syllabus (supplied).
- B. Professor's notes and Power Point (supplied).
- C. Dane, Tim, "Both And Apologetics" (supplied, **to be used as a style guide also**).
- D. Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000 (381pp.).
- E. Mayers, Ronald B. *Balanced Apologetics: Using Evidences and Presuppositions in Defense of the Faith*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1984 (217pp.)
- F. Geisler, Norman L. and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2004 (411pp.) (**this is not required reading, but I thought it was a good, recent work**).

IV. Course requirements

- A. Attendance of and participation in all classes.
- B. Read both assigned books.

- C. Write a 1-2 page review of each book giving comment on major ideas you learned.
- D. Paper
- i. Write a semester paper according to the following structure and topic.
 1. A title page
 2. Chapter 1: Introduction: a chapter that discusses
 - a. (A) the nature of apologetics and
 - b. (B) the reason why it is necessary.
 3. Chapter 2: The Need for Apologetics: a chapter that discusses
 - a. (A) the nature of man as the image of God and
 - b. (B) the impact that sin has had on man.
 4. Chapter 3: Two Major Views on Apologetics
 - a. (A) Evidential Apologetics
 - i. The essence
 - ii. The strengths
 - iii. The weaknesses
 - b. (B) Presuppositional Apologetics
 - i. The essence
 - ii. The strengths
 - iii. The weaknesses
 5. Summary
 - ii. Guidelines.
 1. The paper should be 5-15 pages in length.
 2. Strive for good writing style (I see it all as a learning process).
 3. Utilize my papers as a guide on proper style.
 4. Use at least 10 scholarly sources with footnotes. These scholarly sources can include your required reading books, other apologetics sources, theology books that deal with man, sin, salvation, journal articles, online sources.
 5. Online style example with a quote from Sean McDowell: “How do the New Testament documents compare with other ancient books? A stack of existing manuscripts from the average classical writer would measure about four feet high. Yet the New Testament manuscripts would stack to more than one-mile high” (Sean McDowell, “What is the Most Recent Manuscript Count for the New Testament?,” <[What is the Most Recent Manuscript Count for the New... | Sean McDowell](#)>, accessed Dec. 21, 2020).

V. Course grading

- A. 25% Class attendance and participation
- B. 25% Completed reading and book reviews
- C. 25% Scripture memorization
- D. 25% Papers

VI. Course schedule

Class	Date	Class Topic (subject to change based on progress)	Scripture Memorization	Personal Studies (All reading should be completed before the week we discuss the topics).
1	Jan. 7	<p>Orientation, discussion of resource books and course requirements</p> <p>Introduction to apologetics (1-7)</p> <p>An explanation of apologetics</p> <p>A reason for apologetics</p> <p>A biblical basis for apologetics</p> <p>Our manner in apologetics</p> <p>Review of terminology (8-17)</p> <p><i>Classical Apologetics</i> review by Tim Dane (18-24)</p> <p>Discussion about book reading</p>	You turn in your written verses at the beginning of class in the week they are listed.	
2	Jan. 14	<p>Major methods (25-36)</p> <p>Classical apologetics: Ontological Cosmological Teleological Anthropological Moral</p>	Rom. 1:18-23 Psalm 19:1 (to be turned in this week)	
3	Jan. 21	<p>Review of Five Views by Tim Dane (37-43)</p> <p>Evidential Apologetics:</p> <p>NT Textual data (44-55)</p>	Acts 14:16-17 Acts 17:30-31 (to be turned in this week)	

		OT Textual data (56-59) Major Prophecies (60-62)		
4	Jan. 28	Evidential Apologetics: Historical arguments (63-86) Patterns of Evidence Video (119 min.)	Rom. 1:32 Rom. 2:14-16 (to be turned in this week)	
5	Feb. 4	Evidential Apologetics: Scientific arguments (87-91) Lisle, 1 (58 min.)	Isaiah 46:8-11 (to be turned in this week)	
6	Feb. 11	Presuppositional Apologetics (92-94) Both And Apologetics review (see doc.) Lisle, 2 (54 min.)	Matthew 11:25-27 (to be turned in this week)	
7	Feb. 18	Presuppositional Apologetics: Both And Apologetics review (see doc.) Lisle, 3 (59 min.)	John 10:26-30	
8	Feb. 25	Presuppositional Apologetics: Bahnsen/Stein Debate (video) (95) Lisle, 4 (60 min.)	Isaiah 53:4-6 (to be turned in this week)	
	Mar. 4	No class	Ephesians 2:8-10	
9	Mar. 11	Big Issues: Problem of Evil (96-99) Case for Christ Video (71 min.)	Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23 Romans 5:8 Romans 10:13 (to be turned in this week)	
10	Mar. 18	More big issues: A Theology of Suffering (100-102)	Exodus 20:1-11 (to be turned in this week)	

		Evangelism: Evangelism Basics (103-106) Way of the Master review (107-112) 180 Video (33 min.)		
11	Mar. 25	Evangelism: Romans Road (113-116) Evolution vs. God Video (34 min.)	Exodus 20:12-17 (to be turned in this week)	

Selected Bibliography for Apologetics (with main emphasis)

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Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York: Touchstone, 1996. (**primarily evidential/rational apologetics**).

Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1987. (**primarily evidential/rational apologetics**).

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Clark, David K. and Norman L. Geisler. *Apologetics in the New Age: A Christian Critique of Pantheism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990. (**primarily evidential/rational apologetics**).

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- Dillow, Joseph C. *The Waters Above: Earth's Pre-Flood Vapor Canopy*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1982. **(primarily evidential/rational apologetics)**.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical responses to the Challenge of Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. **(balanced)**.
- Feinberg, John S. *The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problems of Evil*. Rev. ed. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004. **(balanced)**.
- Frame, John. *Apologetics to the Glory of God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1994. **(presuppositional background, but balanced)**.
- Fraser, Gordon H. *What Does the Book of Mormon Teach?* Chicago: Moody Press, 1964. **(primarily evidential/rational apologetics)**.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999. **(primarily evidential/rational apologetics)**.
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- Groothuis, Douglas R. *Unmasking the New Age*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1986. **(primarily evidential/rational apologetics)**.
- Johnson, Phillip E. *Darwin on Trial*. Washington: Regnery Gateway, 1991. **(primarily evidential/rational apologetics)**.
- Kreft, Peter & Tacelli, Ronald K. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994. **(primarily evidential/rational apologetics)**.

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