

Apologetics for Everybody



Faculty Contact

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Feel free to contact me with any questions about the course.

Course Description

Apologetics is our reasoned defence of our belief in God and our obedient actions. It is a Bible word, *apologia*. The word pictures one who is presenting his case before a court of law. This is how the apostle Paul used the term in 2 Timothy 4:16, “At my first defence (*apologia*) no one stood with me, but all forsook me.” Importantly, Paul also connects it specifically to the gospel message: “I am appointed for the defence (*apologia*) of the gospel” (Philippians 1:16). This course helps equip us to give a reasoned defence of many important eternal truths: God’s existence and nature, the deity of Jesus, the gospel of His death and resurrection for our salvation and the inspiration of the Bible.

Course Objectives

Bible

1. To learn specific passages of Scripture which address the following topics: God’s existence, Jesus’s deity, and the Bible’s inspiration.
2. To properly apply the truths presented in the Bible to the objections raised in the secular world.

Ministry

3. To learn the major themes and primary arguments commonly presented in the field of apologetics.
4. To develop an apologetic approach that can be utilized to engage with and hopefully reach the lost with the gospel.

Worldview

5. To enhance our Biblical worldviews by learning how apologetics can help us answer these twelve questions:

1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e., linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
2. To articulate ways we can graciously communicate God's worldview to others by our thoughts, actions and words.

Readings

Primary Sources

The Bible

Secondary Resources

Pugh, Charles C. III and W. Terry Varner, eds. *The Utterance of God: An Extended Treatment of Thomas B. Warren's Argument with the Proof that Assures Man The Bible is the Word of God*. Parkersburg, WV: Warren Christian Apologetics Center, WV 2022.

<https://warrenapologetics.org/bookstore/the-utterance-of-god>

Ramsey, Chad. *Reasons to Believe: A Survey of Christian Evidences*. Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 2008.

Sweis, Khaldoun A. and Chad V. Meister, eds. *Christian Apologetics: An Anthology of Primary Sources*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Warren, Thomas B. Anthony G. N. Flew. *The Warren-Flew Debate on the Existence of God*. Jonesboro, AK: National Christian Press, 1977.

Reading & Assignment Schedule

Reading ahead will help you get the most from our time together each week. Credit students, please see course assignments on Pages 4–5.

	Scripture Text	Related Background Studies	Due
Lesson 1 March 2	1 Peter 3:13-17; Acts 17:1-4	<u>Topic:</u> What is Apologetics? <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 9-14) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 59-72)	
Lesson 2 March 9	Genesis 1; Psalm 19	<u>Topic:</u> God's Existence (1) <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 15-20) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 81-93; 96-98)	Article Summary
Lesson 3 March 23	Exodus 20; Romans 1:18-32; 2:1-16	<u>Topic:</u> God's Existence (2) <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 21-34) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 123-124; 171-173; 174-190)	Article Summary
Lesson 4 March 30	Job 1-3; 42:1-6; Habakkuk 1:12-14	<u>Topics:</u> Problem of Evil; Coherence of Theism <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 35-50) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 422-432; 433-443; 444-449)	Article Summary
Lesson 5 April 6	Luke 2:1-52; 24:1-53	<u>Topic:</u> Deity of Jesus <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 67-84) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 260-269; 362-376)	Book Review
Lesson 6 April 13	2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:1-4	<u>Topic:</u> Inspiration of the Bible <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 51-66) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 277-287)	Article Summary
Lesson 7 April 21 @ Strathmore Church of Christ	Acts 13:13-41; 17:22-34	<u>Topics:</u> Understanding and Assessing Culture; Tactics to Engage	Research Paper

Lesson 8 April 27	Romans 10:1-21; Hebrews 11:1-40	<u>Topics:</u> The Role of Faith; Where Do We Go From Here? <u>Reading:</u> <i>Reasons to Believe</i> (pp. 107-114) <i>Christian Apologetics</i> (pp. 513-518)	Essay Exam
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Course Work Overview

Bible

Weekly Readings and Article Summaries 20%

Bible & Ministry

Book Review: *The Warren-Flew Debate* 20%
Research Paper 30%

Worldview

Essay Exam 30%

Course Work Details

Bible

Weekly Readings and Article Summaries **20%**

- Over the span of the course, four article summaries are due. Each summary should cover a chapter of the student's choosing from the book, *The Utterance of God*. Each summary should be no more than two pages, double-spaced. The summaries should interact with the material covered. The summaries should be emailed by class time on the appointed day. The summaries will be due **March 9; March 23; March 30; and April 13.**
- Weekly readings should be completed before class begins. Students that are taking the class for credit should read both the selection from *Reasons to Believe* and the selection from *Christian Apologetics: An Anthology of Primary Sources*. Students should be conversant in the subject matter.

Ministry

Book Review

20%

Students taking the class for credit should read and review *The Warren-Flew Debate*. The review should be 3-4 pages, double-spaced. The student should both summarize and interact with the material. The book review is due **April 6**.

Research Paper

30%

Students taking the class for credit should write a 10-15 page research paper on an approved topic. Topics must be approved by the instructor before beginning the paper. The research paper should be original, thoughtful, and should engage with scholarly materials. Students should consult both books and academic journals. The research paper should be written according to the *SBL Handbook of Style*. This research paper is due **April 21**.

Worldview

Essay Test

30%

Students will be given one take-home essay test. This test will be open book and open notes. Students will be expected to provide a thorough answer reflecting the material discussed throughout the class.

Additional Resources:

On Reading and Writing:

Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren. *How To Read a Book*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 2014.

Strunk, Jr., William and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. New York, NY: Penguin Press, 2005.

On Apologetics:

Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, Second Edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.

Craig, William Lane. *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010.

———. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truths and Apologetics*, Third Edition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

- Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2006.
- Gould, Paul M. *Cultural Apologetics: Renewing the Christian Voice, Conscience, and Imagination in a Disenchanted World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.
- Gould, Paul M., Travis Dickinson, and R. Keith Loftin. *Stand Firm: Apologetics and the Brilliance of the Gospel*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2018.
- Habermas, Gary R. *Risen Indeed: A Historical Investigation into the Resurrection of Jesus*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2021.
- Hicks, John Mark. *Yet Will I Trust Him: Understanding God in a Suffering World*. Joplin: College Press, 2000.
- Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.
- Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1996.
- . *The Problem of Pain*. New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing, 1978.
- Lincona, Michael R. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.
- Rasmussen, Joshua. *How Reason Can Lead to God: A Philosopher's Bridge to Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019.
- Taylor, Charles. *A Secular Age*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Walls, Jerry L. and Trent Dougherty, eds. *Two Dozen (Or So) Arguments for God*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Warren, Thomas B. *Sin, Suffering, and God*. Jonesboro, AR: National Christian Press, 1970.