Course Description:

The study of crucial issues in the defense of the Christian faith.

Course Objectives: Upon the completion of this course, the student will have demonstrated in classroom discussions, examinations, and papers:

1. An understanding of the biblical material that relates to apologetics.
2. A familiarity with the various approaches to apologetics and their theological and philosophical bases.
3. An appreciation for the relationship between faith and reason and an ability to formulate an approach to this relationship that will serve in ministry.
4. Knowledge of some of the key figures in the field of apologetics, both from the history of the church and from the present.
5. An ability to struggle with a defense of some of the major theological positions of Christianity and some of the major difficulties to the faith raised by those who object to Christianity.
6. An understanding of the crucial nature of the claim to exclusivity made by Christianity and some of the ways in which that claim can be defended.

Textbooks:


Review Books:


Assignments (with percentage of grade):

$Weekly quizzes on Tuesdays over readings in Geisler. Quizzes consist of 10 true-false questions over the assigned reading for the week. Each incorrect answer will deduct 5 points from the quiz grade. (20%).
$Mid-term essay exam$ (3-6 pages) over two questions pertaining to class lectures and discussions in the first part of the term. The exam will be open-book (using your textbook and notes from class, not the internet or other outside sources). (20%)

$Final exam$. The method for this exam will be to give essay questions which will be opportunities for the student to display his knowledge and analysis of class lectures and discussion. The exam will be open-book (using your textbook and notes from class, not the internet or other outside sources). (20%)

$Writing assignments (choose one option – 40% of final grade):$

*Option 1*: Two Book Reviews – one of Zacharias, *Can Man Live Without God* and the other of Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (5-7 pages each). Reviews should: 1) summarize the material succinctly, 2) include analysis of the ideas and themes of the book, and 3) assess the book’s strengths and weaknesses, and 4) comment on the value of the book.

*Option 2*: Research paper (12-15 pages) over topic chosen by student (with professor’s approval) using Turabian form. A minimum of 10 resources should be used and reflected in the bibliography with at least 2 being journal articles. Please have a topic to me by the fourth week of class and a preliminary bibliography by the seventh week. Note: please do not submit a paper from a previous course!

General writing instructions (for book reviews or research paper): The papers will be graded according to form (Turabian), style (can professor understand your writing and are your thoughts clear and concise), content (have you fully read and comprehended the concepts in the book [or your topic if research paper]), and analysis (have you written clearly your own critical view of the book’s [or topic’s] content and value). Plagiarism will not be tolerated! In writing a paper, when you use someone else’s words or thoughts and do not attribute them to the original author, you are essentially claiming that these words or thoughts are your own. This is plagiarism. Therefore, always cite quotations and any other specific information or ideas from other authors. General biographical or English dictionary information is considered common knowledge and need not be cited.

**Class Procedures and Participation:**

All writing assignments should conform to Turabian, 8th Edition. Students should utilize the MABTS Turabian Tutor for quick access to key issues concerning style and format. Written work, including exam essays (which are not subject to Turabian), may be submitted to the instructor electronically via email.

**Attendance**: Students have a maximum of nine absences during the course term. Three tardy marks are equal to one absence.
**Class Conduct:** Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices may only be used for taking notes or other class related activities. Surfing the internet, texting, tweeting, etc. are not permitted. Students who abuse this policy will not be allowed to bring such devices to class.

**Contacting Professor:** Please feel welcome to speak to the professor after class. Otherwise, call or email or drop by the office to make an appointment. Dr. McDill may be contacted via email with any questions or concerns. If you need to call and cannot reach please leave a message and the professor will call back or respond via email.

**Late Work:** Assignments which are turned in late will incur a deduction of two points for each day late. The student is responsible for contacting the professor regarding assignments which will be late, otherwise the professor will assume the student does not plan to submit those assignments.

**Disclaimer:** The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the information provided in this syllabus during the term.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Quality Points per Semester Hour</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>69 and below</td>
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**Schedule:** (The daily class schedule is approximate and may be adjusted as the semester progresses.)

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) Jan. 20-22</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>2) Jan 27-29</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 1</td>
<td>Apologetics intro.</td>
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<td>3) Feb. 3-5</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 2</td>
<td>Existence of God</td>
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<td>4) Feb. 10-12</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 3</td>
<td>Paper Topic due</td>
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<td>Worldviews</td>
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<td>5) Feb. 17-19</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 4</td>
<td>Problem of Evil</td>
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<td>6) Feb. 24-26</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 5</td>
<td>Miracles</td>
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<td>7) March 3-5</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 6</td>
<td>Bibliography Due</td>
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<td>Jesus Christ/Resurrection</td>
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<td>March 10-12</td>
<td><em>Spring Break</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17-19</td>
<td><em>Spring Break</em></td>
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<td>8) March 24-26</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 7</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam due</td>
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<td>Bible: Reliability</td>
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<td>9) March 31-April 3</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 8</td>
<td>Bible Difficulties</td>
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<td>10) April 7-9</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 9</td>
<td>Archeology</td>
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<td>11) April 14-16</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 10</td>
<td>Science And Evolution</td>
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<td>12) April 21-23</td>
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<td>13) April 28-30</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 11</td>
<td>The Afterlife</td>
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<td>14) May 5-7</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 12</td>
<td>Truth</td>
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<td>15) May 12-14</td>
<td>Geisler, Ch. 13</td>
<td>Ethics/Morality</td>
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<td>May 19-20</td>
<td><em>Exam Week</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Book Reviews or Research Paper due</em></td>
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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Balfour, Arthur J. Theism and Humanism.


Carnell, E. J. The Case for Biblical Christianity.

Colson, Charles and Anne Morse. *Burden of Truth: Defending Truth in an Age of Unbelief.*

Craig, William Lane. *Hard Questions, Real Answers.*


Knight, Robert H. *The Age of Consent: The Rise of Relativism and the Corruption of Popular Culture.*


Lewis, C. S. *The Abolition of Man*.

_____ *The Great Divorce*.


_____ *Miracles*.

_____ *The Problem of Pain*.

_____ *The Screwtape Letters*.

_____ *Surprised by Joy*.

_____ *The Weight of Glory*.


O’Connell, Marvin R. *Blaise Pascal: Reasons of the Heart*.


Ramm, Bernard L. *A Christian Appeal to Reason.*


_____ *Varieties of Christian Apologetics: An Introduction to the Christian Philosophy of Religion*


Schaeffer, Francis A. *Death in the City.*

_____ *Back to Freedom and Dignity.*

_____ *Escape From Reason.*


_____ *The Case for Easter.*


Thiselton, Anthony C. *A Concise Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Religion.*


