

ST530 : Apologetics
Spring 2005 : Course Syllabus

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Texts, Required:

Frame, John, *Apologetics to the Glory of God* (Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 1994) ISBN 0-87552-243-2 (paperback).
Murray, Michael (ed.), *Reason for the Hope Within* (Eerdmans, 1999) ISBN 0-8028-4437-5 (paperback).
Plantinga, Alvin, *Warranted Christian Belief* (Oxford University Press, 2000) ISBN 0-19-513192-4 (paperback).
Sproul, R.C., John Gerstner and Arthur Lindsley, *Classical Apologetics* (Zondervan, 1984) ISBN 0-310-44951-0 (paperback).

Exams: **Final Exam** distributed April 16, **due (postmarked or e-mailed) by May 7, 2005**

Papers: **Students will complete one of the following.** Due date is April 30 at midnight (by e-mail or postmark). Papers submitted more than one week prior to the due date will be received as *drafts* and may be revised. The due date for all revisions is May 21, 2005.

#1. Apologetic Exchange: focused and annotated e-mail text of an apologetic exchange with a non-Christians. Target length (total): 3500 words. [Notes: a. annotation/commentary should not exceed 50% of this exercise. b. If a fruitful e-mail exchange is not clearly viable on April 15, this option should not be attempted.]

#2. Meta-Apologetic Critical Assessment: a 3000-word explanation and assessment of a source published in the last ten years (1995 or later) dealing with apologetics. The assessment should focus on methodological matters. [Note: only one student may write on a particular source, so first-come, first-served.]

#3. Apologetic Response: a 3000-word response to an attack leveled against the faith published in the last five years (2000 or later). [Note: only one student may write on a particular source, so first-come, first-served.]

Group Quizzes: Both Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions will begin with a brief **group** quiz over the assigned readings and prior class lectures/discussions. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. (During the first weekend groups will be formed for this purpose. Group members can divide up the readings (if desired) to prepare for the quizzes.

Grading: Grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

Final Exam.....	40%
Paper	45%
Quiz Average.....	15%

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments:

Note: It is necessary to assign rather more reading than normal humans with other responsibilities can hope to get through in a thoughtful way. The following list assumes that you will take advantage of the "syndicates" that will be formed on Feb. 18. Syndicate members may make use of their syndicates notes on the readings any time access to the readings themselves will be allowed. Since some quizzes and much of the final will allow such access, sharing notes will be quite beneficial.

**Feb. 18&19 *The Apologetic Tasks* (The Biblical Imperative to Defend the Faith)
(no reading or writing assignments)**

**Mar. 11&12 *Meta-Apologetics* (Theories of Defending the Faith)
Reading: Frame (pp. 1-147) & Sproul, et al (pp. 3-179)**

**Apr. 15&16 *Apologetic Challenges Answered* (Defending the Faith)
Reading: Plantinga (chps 3, 5-9, 13; i.e. pp. 67-107, 135-323, 422-457);
Murray (chps 1, 2, 4, 5, and three chapters to be selected by the
class; i.e. 1-46, 76-134, and roughly 60 other pages).**

Apr. 23 (midnight/postmarked): Drafts of Paper Due (if revisions are to be allowed)

Apr. 30 (midnight/postmarked): Paper Due

May 7 Final Exam Due (postmarked or e-mailed)

May 21 Final Draft of Papers Due (postmarked or e-mailed)