

ST530 : Apologetics
Spring 2008 : Course Syllabus

Instructor: William C. Davis, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, RTS;
Professor of Philosophy, Covenant College
davis@covenant.edu
10 Krupski Loop; Lookout Mountain, GA 30750-4503

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 5, **due by Saturday, April 12, 2007 at midnight** (postmarked or e-mailed)

Papers: **Students will complete one of the following. Final Draft** is due **April 19, 2008** at midnight (by e-mail or postmark).

#1. Apologetic Exchange: focused and annotated e-mail text of an apologetic exchange with a non-Christian. Target length (total): 3500 words. [Notes: (a) A first exchange (at least one substantive e-mail from each party) showing the potential of the contact is due on **March 8, 2008**. (b) Annotation/commentary should not exceed 50% of this exercise.]

#2. Meta-Apologetic Critical Assessment: a 3000-word explanation and assessment of a source published in the last ten years (1998 or later) dealing with apologetics. The assessment should focus on methodological matters. [Notes: (a) If a Rough Draft is submitted by March 22, 2008, it will receive comments and suggestions. The Final Draft would then be due **one week after** the comments were returned or **April 19, 2008**, ***whichever is later***. (b) 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 (2002 or later). [Notes: (a) If a Rough Draft is submitted by March 22, 2008, it will receive comments and suggestions. The Final Draft would then be due **one week after** the comments were returned or **April 19, 2008**, ***whichever is later***. (b) Only one student may write on a particular source, so first-come, first-served.]

Participation: In-class activities (debates, puzzle solutions, role-playing, etc.) will contribute to this portion of the grade, along with attendance.

Grading: Grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

Final Exam.....	40%
Paper	45%
Participation.....	15%

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments:

Feb. 1-2 **The Apologetic Tasks** (The Biblical Imperative to Defend the Faith)
(no reading or writing assignments)

Feb. 29-Mar. 1 **Meta-Apologetics** (Theories of Defending the Faith)
Reading: Frame (pp. 1-147) & Sproul, et al (pp. 3-179)

(Mar. 8) **First Exchange (required if pursuing Apologetic Exchange Option)**

(Mar. 22) **Rough Draft of Meta-Apologetic or Apologetic Response paper Draft of Paper (optional)**

Apr. 4-5 **Apologetic Challenges Answered** (Defending the Faith I)
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. 12 **Final Exam Due (postmarked or e-mailed)**

Apr. 19* **Final Draft of Papers Due (postmarked or e-mailed)**
***or 10 days after comments sent**