ST530 : Apologetics  
Winter 2010 : Course Syllabus

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Texts, Required:

Frame, John, *Apologetics to the Glory of God* (Presbyterian & Reformed 
Murray, Michael (ed.), *Reason for the Hope Within* (Eerdmans, 1999) ISBN 0-
8028-4437-5 (paperback).
Sproul, R.C., John Gerstner and Arthur Lindsley, *Classical Apologetics* 
Davis, “Frame in the Context of Recent Apologetics” (emailed ahead or at IQ 
Web: original appears in the forthcoming Frame Festschrift)

Exams:

Final Exam distributed January 9, due by January 23, 2010 (postmarked or e-
mailed)

Papers:

Students will complete one of the following. Final Draft is due February 13, 
2010 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 January 24. (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 (1997 or later) dealing with 
apologetics. The assessment should focus on methodological matters. [Notes: (a) 
If a Rough Draft is submitted by January 30, it will receive comments and 
suggestions. The Final Draft would then be due one week after the comments 
were returned or February 13, 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 January 30, it will receive comments and suggestions. The Final 
Draft would then be due one week after the comments were returned or February
13, 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:**

**Jan. 6 (Wed.)** *The Apologetic Tasks* (The Biblical Imperative to Defend the Faith)  
(no reading or writing assignments, but Davis, “Frame in the Context of Recent Apologetics” is recommended)

**Jan. 7 (Thu.)** *Meta-Apologetics* (Theories of Defending the Faith)  
Reading: Frame (pp. 1-147) & Sproul, et al (pp. 3-179)

**Jan. 8 (Fri.)** *Apologetic Challenges Answered* (Defending the Faith I)  
Reading: Plantinga (chps 3, 5-9, 13; i.e. pp. 67-107, 135-323, 422-457)

**Jan. 9 (Sat.)** *Apologetic Challenges Answered* (Defending the Faith II)  
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 as selected).

**Jan. 23** Final Exam Due (postmarked or e-mailed)

**Jan. 30** First Exchange of e-mails due (for Apologetic Exchange option)  
((Optional Rough Draft of Meta-Apologetic or Apologetic Response paper)

**Feb. 13* Final Draft of Papers Due (postmarked or e-mailed)  
*or 10 days after comments sent from instructor to student