

ST530 : Apologetics
Winter 2010 : 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).
- 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)**
Jan. 30 **(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**