

ST530: Apologetics. 2 hours

Time: M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (June 7-11, 2010)

Place: Davis Building

Contact Information

Prof.: Bruce Baugus

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TA: NA

Catalog Course Description

Students examine the various approaches to apologetic methodology and engage the most frequently raised objections to the Christian faith.

Expanded Description

The purpose of this class manifold: (1) to understand the role apologetics plays in the life and work of the ministry; (2) to develop an effective, biblical apologetic methodology consistent with and grounded in Reformed orthodoxy as outlined by our confessional standards; (3) to identify and engage the various challenges, objections to, and attacks upon Christian faith on the contemporary scene; and (4) to refine your skills in the analysis and construction of arguments in the service of the ministry of the Gospel.

Textbooks

William Edgar, *Reasons of the Heart: Recovering Christian Persuasion*, ISBN 9780875525952

Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*, ISBN 9780525950493

Cornelius Van Til, *Christian Apologetics*, ISBN 9780875525112

Thom Notaro, *Van Til & The Use of Evidence*, ISBN 9780875523538

Oliphint and Edgar, *Christian Apologetics Past and Present*, vol. 1, ISBN 9781581349061

Del Ratzsch, *Science & Its Limits: The Natural Sciences in Christian Perspective*, ISBN 9780830815807

Assignments

Students are expected to complete the readings listed on the Course Schedule (see below). Accountability will consist of the following:

Course Grade

Reading Reports	30%	One solid paragraph per assigned passage, due with essay exam (P/F)
Final Exam	30%	Covering Apologetic Problems and Pastoral Applications
<u>Essay Exam (Final)</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>Demonstrating effective application of class content in ministry context</u>
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Corresponding Reading Assignments</u>
1 AM	Introduction to Apologetics (Definition and Call) History of Apologetics and Place of Apologetics in Theological Encyclopedia	Apol. Reader, all
PM	The Condition of Being Lost (The Weight of Being Human) Strategies of Self Defense (Objections, Defeaters, and Dodges) Apologetic Prolegomena: Goal and Method	Edgar: Intro & chs. 1-6
2 AM	Apologetic Prolegomena: Method	Van Til: 3-5 Notaro: all
PM	Intro to Apologetic Problems and Pastoral Applications	Keller: Intro; Edgar: ch 7
3 AM	On Pluralism and Exclusivity	Keller: chs. 1, 3, & 5; Edgar: ch. 8
PM	On Evil & Suffering	Keller: chs. 2 & 4; Edgar: ch. 9
4 AM	On Science and Scientism	Keller: chs. 6 Ratsch, all
PM	On God: Trinity, Incarnation, and Resurrection	Keller: Interm. & chs. 8-14
5 AM	On Scripture: Historicity & Plausibility	Keller: chs. 7
PM	Conclusion & Review for Exam FINAL EXAM (in class)	Edgar, ch. 10

ESSAY EXAM (Due one month after final class)
Reading Reports due with Submission of Essay Exam

Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Christian Life in a Secular Culture

Professor: Bruce P. Buagus

Campus: Jackson

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> > Strong > Moderate > Minimal > N/A	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	See course title
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Moderate	A biblical concept and method of Apologetics and apologetic defense the Scripture are central concerns of the course
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed theology is assumed and drawn upon as a source in course
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Love of God and neighbor, however, is the only proper spirit for apologetics
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Aim of our ministry of apologetics
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	A constant theme of the course
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Ideally this course will help student know "what they are up against" and how to adequately address it in the work of the ministry
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Course is rich in implications for worship which will be explored at times
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Apologetics is vital to this aspect of the ministry
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Engaging the world (and less so other Christian traditions) is central to the course