

Apologetics (6ST530) for Young Life Staff
Spring 2007
Reformed Theological Seminary Washington DC

Instructor: Dr. Art Lindsley
Cell: (202) 390-4770

Location: McLean Presbyterian Church
1020 Balls Hill Road
McLean, Virginia 22010

Class Dates
and Times: Monday-Friday (April 30-May 4)

04/30/2007 (Monday)	09:00 AM - 03:30 PM
05/01/2007 (Tuesday)	01:00 PM - 07:00 PM
05/02/2007 (Wednesday)	09:00 AM - 03:30 PM
05/03/2007 (Thursday)	01:00 PM - 07:00 PM
05/04/2007 (Friday)	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Questions? Contact Richard Mehring at RTS at rmehring@rts.edu or (703) 222-7871.

Course Description

This course will provide the foundations necessary to develop an adequate defense of the faith. We will examine basic presuppositions and the debate over them - arguments for God's existence, miracles, and the problem of evil. The importance of speaking to cultural issues will be stressed. In this light we will examine the New Age Movement, a response to new religious movements, and cultural apologetics.

Required Books

Prioritize reading True Truth before class.

- (1) Lindsley, Art. C. S. Lewis's Case for Christ
- (2) Sproul, R. C., John Gerstner, and Art Lindsley. Classical Apologetics
- (3) Lindsley, Art. True Truth: Defending Absolute Truth in a Relativistic World
- (4) Geisler, Norman. Apologetics in the New Age
- (5) Moreland, J.P. Scaling the Secular City

Books are available from amazon.com and christianbooks.com.

Course Format

Lecture and extensive discussion

Course Objectives

- To enable students to better articulate and defend their faith in the modern world.
- To engage the opposing world views to faith in Christ and provide an adequate response.
- To answer central objections to the faith.
- To encourage a responsiveness to people - speaking the truth in love.
- To urge the importance of creative responses to people based on the best of the apologetic tradition.

Course Requirements

For YL staff taking the course for **credit (2 or 3 hours)**:

- Reading notes on the required texts. Take detailed notes on all the readings. You can begin immediately. You will be graded on thoroughness.
- A final take home exam involving lectures and readings. Will be distributed on the last day of class.

For students taking the course for **3 hours** (for credit at another seminary): in addition to the two assignments above, you are also required to write a **10-15 page paper** on a subject of student's choice. Be sure to discuss and get approval on your topic with Dr. Lindsley. The due date for all assignments (2 and 3 hours) is **Thursday, August 31**.

Students who are **auditing** the course are required to do assignments in order to receive credit through Young Life. Dee Dee has more information. Please contact her at dthomson@sc.younglife.org for details. The due date for all assignments is **Thursday, August 31**.

Grading (for students taking the class for **3** credit hours):

Reading Reports	20%
Paper	30%
Final Examination	50%

Grading (for students taking the class for **2** credit hours):

Reading Reports	40%
Final Examination	60%

Grading Scale:

The standard RTS grading scale (found in the official catalog) will be used.

A	(97-100)	4.00 quality points
A-	(94-96)	3.66
B+	(91-93)	3.33
B	(88-90)	3.00
B-	(86-87)	2.66
C+	(83-85)	2.33
C	(80-82)	2.00
C-	(78-79)	1.66

D+	(75-77)	1.33
D	(72-74)	1.00
D-	(70-71)	0.66
F	(below 70)	0.00

Supplementary Bibliography (not required)

Clark, Gordon. A Christian View of Men and Things
 Craig, William Lane. Apologetics: An Introduction
 Geisler, Norman. Christian Apologetics
 Geisler, Norman. Philosophy of Religion
 Pinnock, Clark. Set Forth Your Case
 Schaeffer, Francis. The God Who Is There
 Sproul, R.C. The Psychology of Atheism
 Van Til, Cornelius. The Defense of the Faith

Course Content

Lecture 1	Apology for Apologetics	Lecture 9	The Church Is Full of Hypocrites
Lecture 2	Psychology of Atheism	Lecture 10	Is Christianity Too Narrow-minded: What About the Pagan in Africa?
Lecture 3	Absolutes Without Absolutism	Lecture 11	Other Approaches to Apologetics
Lecture 4	New Age	Lecture 12	Death and Immortality
Lecture 5	Cults		
Lecture 6	Arguments for God's Existence		
Lecture 7	Problem of Evil		
Lecture 8	Authority of Scripture		