4ST530 : Apologetics  
July 2011 : Course Syllabus  

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Texts, Required:  
- Davis, “Frame in the Context of Recent Apologetics” (from *Speaking the Truth in Love*, pre-publication draft sent via e-mail)  

Exams: Final Exam distributed July 30, due by August 13, 2011 (postmarked or e-mailed)  

Paper: Students will complete one of the following. Final Draft is due August 20, 2011 at midnight (by e-mail or postmark), but an extension is assured with any reasonable explanation.  

#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 August 6, 2011. (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 August 20, 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 August 20, 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:**

**July 8-9**  
*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)

**July 15-16**  
*Meta-Apologetics* (Theories of Defending the Faith)  
Reading: Frame (pp. 1-147) & Stackhouse (all)

**July 29-30**  
*Apologetic Challenges Answered* (Defending the Faith)  
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 as selected).

**Aug. 6**  
First Exchange of e-mails due (for Apologetic Exchange option)

**Aug. 13**  
Final Exam Due (postmarked or e-mailed)

**Aug. 20**  
Final Draft of Papers Due (postmarked or e-mailed)  
*or 10 days after comments sent from instructor to student*