

4ST530 : Apologetics
July 2011 : Course Syllabus

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Texts, Required:

Frame, John, *Apologetics to the Glory of God* (Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 1994) ISBN 978-0875522432 (paperback).

Murray, Michael (ed.), *Reason for the Hope Within* (Eerdmans, 1999) ISBN 978-0802844378 (paperback).

Plantinga, Alvin, *Warranted Christian Belief* (Oxford University Press, 2000) ISBN 978-0195131932 (paperback).

Stackhouse, John, *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today* (Oxford University Press, 2006), ISBN 978-0195307177

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**