

REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Washington DC

Apologetics (6ST530) – Spring 2011

April 26-30, 2011

Tuesday-Friday 9AM-3:30PM; Saturday 9AM-12:00PM

Instructor: Dr. Art Lindsley

Cell: (202) 390-4770

Location: Hyatt Place Herndon/Dulles Airport-East
13711 Sayward Boulevard
Herndon, VA 20171

For more information contact Dee Dee Thomson in the YL Training Center at dthomson@sc.younglife.org or Jennifer McGahey at RTS at jmcgahey@rts.edu.

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 (remember to take reading notes – detailed outline format).

(1) Lindsley, Art. C. S. Lewis's Case for Christ

(2) Sproul, R. C., John Gerstner, and Art Lindsley. Classical Apologetics, chapters 4, 5, 10-20 ONLY

(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 , chapters 5 and 6 ONLY

(6) Lindsley, Art. Love: The Ultimate Apologetic

Books are available from amazon.com, christianbooks.com and rts.edu.

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** (either **2 or 3 hours**), AND

For RTS Students taking the course for **2 credit hours**:

- Reading notes on the required texts. Take notes in detailed outline format on all the readings. You can begin immediately. You will be graded on thoroughness.
- A final take home exam involving lectures and readings.

For students taking the course for **3 hours** (those taking it for credit at another seminary): in addition to the two assignments above, you are also required to write a 10-15 page paper on 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 August 19, 2011.

Students who are **auditing** the course are required to do assignments in order to receive credit through Young Life. Dee Dee Thomson has more information. Please contact her at dthomson@sc.younglife.org for details. The due date for all assignments is August 19, 2011.

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 30%

Final Examination 70%

Grading Scale:

The standard RTS grading scale 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

Supplementary Bibliography:

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:

This class will cover the following subjects:

- Apology for Apologetics
- Psychology of Atheism
- Absolutes Without Absolutism
- New Age
- Cults
- Arguments for God's Existence
- Problem of Evil
- Authority of Scripture
- The Church Is Full of Hypocrites
- Is Christianity Too Narrow-Minded? What About the Pagan in Africa?
- Other Approaches to Apologetics
- Death and Immortality