



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

TH615 - APOLOGETICS

Course: TH615 - Apologetics
Credits: 3 credit hours
Semester: Fall 2026 Session 2
Time: Mondays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time
Place: TBA
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Ph.D.
Department Chair of Bible and Theology
Director of the Ph.D. in Bible and Theology Program
Director of the Master of Arts in Bible and Theology Program
Professor of Bible and Theology
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a biblical study of the defense of Christianity. Arguments will be given for the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the deity of Jesus, the historicity of Jesus, the gospel including the death of Jesus on the cross and bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Arguments will be given for the existence of God, biblical young earth creationism, and the problem of evil in the world. Students will critique the beliefs of world religions and cults from a biblical worldview. Presuppositional and evidential approaches to apologetics will be presented and evaluated.

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved: The student will:

1. Define biblical apologetics and explain its value in the defense of a Christian world and life view (PLO 5) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
2. Defend the biblical Christian worldview based on biblical exegesis and biblical and systematic theology (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
3. Decide on his basic apologetic methodology after studying three main views on apologetics (classical, evidentialism, presuppositionalism) (PLO 1, 3, 4, 5) (Assignment 1, 5)

Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Give biblical answers to attacks made against the Bible and the major doctrines of Christianity (PLO 3, 4) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
2. Give biblical answers to the major objections to the gospel of Jesus Christ (PLO 3, 4) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
3. Learn what questions to ask skeptics to challenge their beliefs and assumptions (PLO 3, 4) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
4. Give biblical arguments for the historicity of Jesus, the deity of Jesus, and the bodily resurrection of Jesus (PLO 2, 3, 4) (Assignment 2, 3, 5)
5. Give biblical arguments for a young earth creation view and a literal view of Genesis 1 (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (Assignment 2, 3, 5)

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word for word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases and thought for thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Beckwith, Francis, William Lane Craig, and J.P. Moreland. *To Everyone An Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 2004. ISBN: 0-8308-2735-8
Cost: \$22.00

Morley, Brian. *Mapping Apologetics: Comparing Contemporary Approaches*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-8308-0 Cost: \$24.16

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Read the book *Mapping Apologetics: Comparing Contemporary Approaches* and write a book review (5 pages double spaced following Turabian style). Post the book review in Assignments in Canvas (200 points)

Assignment 2: Write a research paper defending biblical Christianity (200 points). Post the research paper in Assignments in Canvas. The research paper should be 8-10 pages (double spaced following Turabian style) answering one of the following questions:

Defend the Bible: How do you know that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God?

Defend Biblical Young Earth Creationism: How do you know young earth creationism is true and evolution is false?

Defend the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus: How do you know that Jesus arose bodily from the dead?

Defend the Gospel: How do you know that Jesus is the Only Way to God? Why aren't there many ways to God and heaven?

Defend the Goodness of God: If God is good why doesn't He do away with evil and suffering in the world?

Use a minimum of five sources: the Bible, two books and two journal articles.

Use Turabian style format. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Turabian style includes footnotes.

Assignment 3: Read the book *To Everyone An Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview* and write a book review (5 pages double spaced following Turabian style). Post the book review in Assignments in Canvas (200 points)

Assignment 4: Write a research paper summarizing and critiquing the major beliefs of one of the following World Religions and/or Cults: Roman Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism. Post the research paper in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas. The research paper should be 8-10 pages (double spaced following Turabian style).(200 points)

Use a minimum of five sources: the Bible, two books and two journal articles.

Use Turabian style format. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Turabian style includes footnotes.

Assignment 5: - Final Exam: There are 50 questions on the Final Exam (true/false and multiple choice). The Final Exam is over the reading from the textbooks and the class lectures (100 points)

Assignment 6: Attendance and Attendance Reports. Students are expected to be in class (in-person and online). In-person students are expected to be in their seats on the day and time that the class meets. Online students are expected to watch the video lecture each week. All students should post their attendance each week (See Attendance Reports in Announcements in Canvas). All students should list three things that they learned from the weekly lecture.

Excused Absence = the student has notified the professor in an email that he or she will not be in class and gives the reason why.

Unexcused Absence = (1) the student did not attend class, (2) the student did not watch the video lecture for the week, (3) the student did not report his or her attendance in Canvas for the week

Attendance Grade

100 = student attends every class and reports attendance in Canvas

90 = student misses one class or fails to report attendance for one class in Canvas

80 = student misses two classes or fails to report attendance for two classes in Canvas

70 = student misses three classes or fails to report attendance for three classes in Canvas

60 = student misses four classes or fails to report attendance for four classes in Canvas

50 = student misses five classes or fails to report attendance for five classes in Canvas

40 = student misses six classes or fails to report attendance for six classes in Canvas

30 = student misses seven classes or fails to report attendance for seven classes in Canvas

0 = student misses all eight classes or fails to report attendance for eight classes in Canvas

GRADUATE GRADING SCALE

960-1000	A
940-959	A-
920-939	B+
880-919	B
860-879	B-
840-859	C+
800-839	C
780-799	C-
0-779	F

SCHEDULE

- Week One Defining Biblical Apologetics
 Presuppositional Apologetics – Cornelius Van Til
 Classical Apologetics – Norman Geisler
 Evidential Apologetics – Josh McDowell
- Week Two Arguments for the Existence of God
 Solving the Problem of Evil in the World
- Week Three The History of the Battle for the Bible
 Defending the Inspiration of the Bible
 Defending the Inerrancy of the Bible
- Week Four Creation vs. Evolution – The History of the Debate
 Arguments against Evolution
 Arguments for Biblical Young Earth Creationism
- Week Five Defending the Historicity of Jesus
 Defending the Deity of Jesus
 Defending the Incarnation of Jesus
- Week Six Defending the Gospel
 Defending the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus
- Week Seven Critique of World Religions
 Critique of Roman Catholicism
 Critique of Islam
 Critique of Judaism
- Week Eight Critique of Cults
 Critique of Jehovah’s Witnesses
 Critique of Mormons
 Critique of New Age Religions

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Attend class every week on time. Students are expected to be in every class either in person or in Microsoft Teams. You are expected to contact the professor if you cannot attend class (for any reason).

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's ideas or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he or she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

Turn all work in on time. -5 points for each day late.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beckwith, Francis, William Lane Craig, and J.P. Moreland. *To Everyone An Answer*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Burson, Scott and Jerry Walls. *C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer: Lessons for a New Century from the Most Influential Apologists of our Time*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.

Campbell-Jack, W.C. and Gavin McGrath. *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Geisler, Norman. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.

Geisler, Norman. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.

Geisler, Norman. *The Big Book of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.

Geisler, Norman and Ronald Brooks. *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences*. Revised and updated. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2011.

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. Penguin Books, 2008.

Kreeft, Peter and Ronald K. Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1994.

McDowell, Josh. *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999.

Morley, Brian K. *Mapping Apologetics: Comparing Contemporary Approaches*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Updated and expanded. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.