

TH346 - APOLOGETICS

Course: TH346 Apologetics
Credits: 3 Semester hours
Semester: Fall 2026 Session 2 (October 19- December 11)
Time: Monday/Wednesday 2:30-3:50 pm
Place: East Ed 116
Professor: Ian Bacon, M.Div, PhD
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DESCRIPTION

A study of the vindication of the Christian philosophy of life against the various forms of non-Christian philosophy of life. Presuppositional and evidential approaches to apologetics are evaluated on the basis of a study of relevant portions of Scripture. (Prerequisite: BI115)

** This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

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 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2)
2. Defend the biblical Christian worldview based on biblical exegesis and biblical and systematic theology (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3)
3. Decide on his basic apologetic methodology after studying three main views on apologetics (classical, evidentialism, presuppositionalism) (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

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

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 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2)
2. Give biblical answers to the major objections to the gospel of Jesus Christ (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 7, 8)
3. Engage in conversations with skeptics and learn what questions to ask to challenge their beliefs and assumptions (PLO 3) (A 1, 2)
4. Give biblical arguments for the historicity of Jesus, the deity of Jesus, and the bodily resurrection of Jesus (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 4, 5, 6)
5. Give biblical arguments for a young earth creation view and critique the lie of evolution (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 6, 7, 8)

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.

Geisler, Norman and Ronald Brooks. *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences*. Revised and updated. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
ISBN: 978-08010-14987 Cost: \$15.51 paperback on Amazon

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Updated and expanded. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.
ISBN: 978-0-310-3465862 Cost: \$10.89 paperback on Amazon

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1: Read the textbook *When Skeptics Ask* by Norman Geisler and Ronald Brooks (100 points).

Assignment #2: Answer ten questions in Discussions on the textbook *When Skeptics Ask* by Norman Geisler and Ronald Brooks (100 points).

Assignment #3: Discussion board defending your apologetic methodology (100 points)

Assignment #4: Write the Defining the Biblical Worldview Paper (200 points): Write a research paper of 6 pages (double spaced) defining and defending the biblical worldview by answering these questions: What is truth? What is real? What is your view of God? What does it mean to be human? What is wrong with the world? How is the gospel the solution to the world's problems? What happens to people after death? What is important to you in life and why? Use as a minimum of five sources: the Bible, two books and two journal articles. Use Turabian format.

Assignment #5: Read the textbook *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel (100 points)

Assignment #6: Answer ten questions in Discussions on the textbook *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel (100 points)

Assignment #7: Discussion Board critiquing the Ken Ham/Bill Nye Debate (100 points).

Assignment #8: Write the Defending Christianity Paper (200 points): Write a research paper of 6 pages (double spaced) answering one of the following questions:

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

Defend 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 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. Follow Turabian format.

All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

FINAL GRADE

930-1000 points	A
900-929 points	A-
870-899 points	B+
830-869 points	B
800-829 points	B-
770-799 points	C+
730-769 points	C
700-729 points	C-
670-699 points	D+
630-669 points	D
600-629 points	D-
0-599 points	F

SCHEDULE

Week One	Welcome/Syllabus/Introductions Defining Biblical Apologetics Apologetics in Acts Famous Christian Apologists
Week Two	Defining the Biblical Worldview Classical Apologetics – Arguments for the Existence of God Critiquing Worldviews and Different Views of God The Problem of God and Evil in the World
Week Three	Defending the Inspiration of the Bible Defending the Inerrancy of the Bible
Week Four	The Battle for the Bible Defending the Historicity of the Bible (Archaeology and the Bible)
Week Five	Different Views on Origins and Genesis 1 Critiquing Evolution Defending Young Earth Creationism

- Week Six Defending the Historical Adam
 Defending the Global Flood
- Week Seven Defending Jesus and the Gospel
 Defending Jesus as the Messiah – Messianic Prophecies
- Week Eight Critiquing World Religions: Judaism, Islam, Roman Catholicism
 Critiquing Cults: Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons

Notices

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

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s 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. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade.

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.

Attendance

Residential Students: I will record attendance by checking academic activity during the previous 7 days each Wednesday. If you miss more than one week, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If you miss more than two weeks of class, your grade will be lowered by one additional letter grade (a total of two letter grades).

Online students: Attendance for online students will consist of validated academic activity at a weekly minimum. Attendance validation for online students includes such activities as participation in class assignments and discussion typically derived from the recorded lectures.

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.

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

Kreeft, Peter and Ronald K. Tacellil. *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.

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