

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
Continuing Education Course  
Branch Campus at Valley Forge Christian College  
October 24-28, 2005

**PHIB 631/THEB 628 APOLOGETICS**  
**(3 Credits)**

Monday 9-5, Tuesday 12-5 & 6-9, Wednesday 9-5, Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-5 post meridian.  
(Tuesday evening will be a joint session with my undergraduate apologetics class and special guests.)

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**FALL 2005**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**DESCRIPTION**

A course designed to equip the student to defend the Christian faith against important contemporary assaults and to build a positive Christian world and life view. Appeal is made not only to the varieties of rational arguments but also to the special contributions of the Pentecostal message.

**OBJECTIVES**

During and upon the completion of this course the student shall demonstrate via discussion and written work:

1. An knowledge of:
  - 1.1. Fundamental issues of epistemology, logic, and hermeneutics relating to apologetics, including the relationship of faith and reason.
  - 1.2. Major competing world views to Christianity.
  - 1.3. Key biblical passages and models relating to apologetics
  - 1.4. Primary approaches to apologetics including their biblical, theological, and philosophical bases and their strengths and weaknesses.
  - 1.5. Most important figures in apologetics.
  - 1.6. Crucial issues in apologetics.
2. An ability to:
  - 2.1. Argue academically in defense of the faith.
  - 2.2. Argue practically in defense of the faith.
  - 2.3. Teach the techniques of practical apologetics.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics. Counterpoints*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000 (400 pages).

Geisler, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999 (841 pages).

Kreeft, Peter & Ronald K. Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-varsity (399 pages).

McDowell, Josh. *A Ready Defense, The Best of Josh McDowell*. Comp. Bill Wilson. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992 (504 pages).

Moreland, J. P. *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1987 (288 pages).

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000 (304 pages).

## **OUTLINE**

1. Introduction.
2. Philosophical, logical, hermeneutical, Biblical, and theological foundations.
3. World Views.
4. Approaches to Apologetics.
5. Specific Concerns for Apologetics.
6. Practical issues. (We anticipate having some friends who are formal atheists visit class.)

## **METHODOLOGY**

Lectures; discussions; media; guests (anticipated); written critiques; formal, polemical research.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Pre-Session. Due: first class October 24.** Produce three critiques each three to five pages in length of: Cowan, Moreland, and Strobel. Be prepared to discuss your analyses. Note that Geisler, Kreeft and Tacelli, and McDowell are to be used as valuable references throughout the course and life.
2. **SESSION, Due: 24-28 October 2005:** Participate in all class sessions “Barring a serious medical emergency” (see *AGTS Catalog*).
3. **POST-SESSION, Due: 23 January 2006:**

- 3.1. Produce a fifteen to twenty page polemical analysis of an apologetic topic determined during the session.
- 3.2. Produce a five to ten page adult education class outline for teaching apologetics.
4. **Note Bene:**
  - 4.1. Late work is subject to grade penalties commensurate with lateness.
  - 4.2. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted in extenuating circumstances upon the written request of the student. Except in extreme circumstances, a grade of I requires that the final grade be reduced one letter.
  - 4.3. Persons with special challenges should contact the instructor ASAP.
  - 4.4. Keep copies of everything until you receive an appropriate, final grade.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK**

1. Use good form: Turabian, including footnotes.
2. Use good style: Strunk and White.
3. Written assignments may be submitted in one of two forms.
  - 3.1. A hardcopy delivered by hand or post.
  - 3.2. An electronic copy emailed to me at [brmarino@vfcc.edu](mailto:brmarino@vfcc.edu) as an attached Word for Windows™ document.

**NOTE:** A \$30.00 fee will be charged to the student's account for every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

### **GRADING**

The grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Critiques:           | 30%         |
| 2. Class participation: | 10%         |
| 3. Polemical analysis:  | 40%         |
| 4. Class outline:       | 20%         |
| <b>Total:</b>           | <b>100%</b> |

### **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### **Apologetics Proper, Online Sites (abbreviated format)**

Consider these "starter sites." Note that they represent a wide perspective.  
The Academy of Christian Apologetics. <http://hisdefense.org/calendar.htm>  
Apologetics Email & Feedback. <http://www.apologetics.org/email.html>

Apologetics and Information Ministry. <http://apologeticsinfo.org/>  
Apologetics Press Home Page. <http://sites.goshen.net/ap/>  
Bulletin Board - Christian Humor and Apologetics  
<http://christianhumor.miningco.com/mpboards.htm>  
Christian Apologetics. <http://www.pblcoc.org/apolo2.htm>  
Christian Apologetic & Research Ministry, (Mormon, Jehovah, Cult, LDS, anti, Jehovah's  
Witnesses, New Age, Evolution. <http://www.carm.org/>  
The Christian Web Finding and Meeting Place. <http://webwitness.org.au/>  
Christian Faith, testimonies, apologetics and bible studies (Faith Section A1000).  
<http://www.truepath.com/>  
The Conception of the Miraculous and Christian Apologetics.  
[http://www.freethought.org/library/modern/keith\\_parsons/thesis/](http://www.freethought.org/library/modern/keith_parsons/thesis/)  
Darkness to Light: Explaining and Defending the Christian Faith. <http://www.dtl.org/>  
Eljachin Ministries. <http://www.eljachin.org/>  
The Mormonism Research Ministry Home Page - Other Sites of Interest.  
<http://www.mrm.org/other-sites.html>  
The Princeton Chronicles <http://www2.apologetics.org/apologetics/chronicles/>  
Quality Christian Apologetics, Bible Study and Chat for survivalists wrestling with God and  
Jesus Christ ... <http://www.orin.net/>  
Unravelling Wittgensteins Net - A Christian ThinkTank. <http://www.themoorings.org/>  
Welcome to The Moorings. <http://www.themoorings.org/>  
Welcome to the World Wide Christian Web! <http://www.wvcw.org/siteindex.html>

### **Systematic Theology**

*Given the importance of systematics in apologetics, several key resources are listed below.*

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## **SPECIFIC DATA**

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