

INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

FALL 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Wills

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MEETING ROOM: Ladies Classroom

CLASS MEETS: Sunday 6:00 – 7:30pm

I. DESCRIPTION:

This course informs the student about the basics of apologetics which enables them to offer a defense of Christianity and be an effective/informed witness to the gospel. The primary goal is that the student will know the basics of defending the faith.

II. RATIONALE

Many people know the stories of the Bible and the basics of the faith in which they believe, however few when confronted with different perspectives have the ability to logically back up the faith and theologies that they hold. This often results in a weakened message that allows people to assume we are mere blind adherents. The objective of this study is for the students to be able to give an answer for the hope that is within them. (1 Peter 3:15)

III. PREREQUISITES: None

IV. MATERIALS

A. TEXTS

1. *The Bible* – YWH
2. *The Case For Christ* – Lee Strobel
3. *The Historical Jesus* – Gary Habermas

B. RECOMMENDED READING

- *Mere Christianity* – C. S. Lewis
- *More Than a Prophet* – Ergun Caner and Emir Caner
- *Readings in the Ancient Near East* – Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer
- *Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Christ* – Christopher Louis Lang
- *The New Evidence* - Josh McDowell
- *The Case For the Resurrection of Jesus* – Gary Habermas and Michael Licona
- *To Everyone an Answer* – Ed. Francis Beckwith, William Craig and J.P. Moreland
- *The Case for Faith* – Lee Strobel

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

A. General Instructional Objectives

This course seeks to:

1. Teach how to defend your faith with scripture and other outside evidences.

2. Teach the validity and truth of Christianity as a rationale and superior philosophy of life.
3. Equip the Christian to defend their faith and be better evangelists.
4. Provide a opportunity for the students to research a subject of personal choice related to this study.

B. Topics to be Covered

See Course Calendar

C. Instructional Procedures

1. PowerPoint Lectures
2. Reading Reports
3. Written work
4. Course Evaluations

E. Responsibilities of Students

1. Attend class
2. Read all assigned readings
3. Participate in class discussions
4. Take assigned test
5. Complete all written work

VI. EVALUATION

A. Book Reports:

Students are responsible for selected readings from *Case For Christ* and *The Historical Jesus*. Students are asked to bring notes from the assigned readings to assist in class discussion.

B. Attendance:

Attendance is required. Since there are only 11 classes, being absent one day is the equivalent of missing more than two-three days in a college term. If any absence is expected please talk to the instructor. We respectfully request to show up on time or bring Starbucks. (Cinnamon Dulce Latte) Students are responsible for all the material covered in any class missed.

C. Papers:

- Personal Interest Paper: Students are asked to write a research paper on a topic of choice, due one week from the end of the last class. The recommended length is 5-7 pages. (DOUBLE SPACED)

Papers should include footnotes and bibliography with a listing of at least 5 separate sources (including internet sources). Topics must be pertinent to the course material, but there is freedom to study that which you wish within that boundary.

D. Course Evaluations:

There will be only one exam given the last hour of the last day of the course. The exam will be a multiple-choice exam and be based on the reading and lecture. There will be no make-up exams, unless excused by the Professor.

F. Grades:

Final grades for the course will be based on the students' reading, discussion, grade on the exam, and the research paper. There will be no make-up exams. Grades will be determined using the

following scale:

<u>The grading scale:</u>	<u>What each assignment is worth:</u>
90 - 100 = A	Discussion/Attendance 10%
80 - 89 = B	Reading 30%
70 - 79 = C	Exam 30%
60 - 69 = D	<u>Papers</u> 30%
0 - 59 = F	TOTAL 100%

JUST KIDDING!!!!!!!

VIII: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As a Christian community of scholarship, we at FBCFW are committed to the principles of truth and honesty in the academic endeavor. As faculty and students in this Christian community, we are called to present our academic work as an honest reflection of our abilities; we do not need to defraud members of the community by presenting others' work as our own. Therefore, academic dishonesty is handled with serious consequences for two fundamental reasons: it is stealing – taking something that is not ours; it is also lying – pretending to be something it is not. In a Christian community, such pretense is harmful to the individual and community as a whole. Cheating should have no place at a campus where Christ is King because God desires us to be truthful with each other concerning our academic abilities. Only with a truthful presentation of our knowledge can there be an honest evaluation of our abilities.

IX. COURSE CALENDAR

Sunday September 14th – Introduction: Eyewitnesses

Sunday September 21st – Eyewitnesses Evidence (Case For Christ Ch. 1&2)

Sunday September 28th – Documentary Evidence (Case For Christ Ch. 3, Historical Jesus Ch.7)

Sunday October 5th – Documentary Evidence (Historical Ch. 10)

Sunday October 12th – Corroborating Evidence (Case For Christ Ch. 4, Historical Jesus Ch.9)

Sunday October 19th – Corroborating Evidence (“ ”)

Sunday November 2nd – Scientific/Archeological Evidence (Case For Christ Ch. 5, Historical Ch. 8)

Sunday November 16th – Person of Christ (Case For Christ Ch. 6&7)

Sunday November 30th – Person of Christ (Case For Christ Ch. 9&10)

Sunday December 7th – Other Evidence (Case For Christ Ch. 11&12)

Sunday December 14th - Exit Evaluation/Final Exam

***Hand in Final Research Paper by Sunday December 7th**