

**International Baptist College**  
2150 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, Arizona 85282  
TH 624/824, Christian Apologetics, 2 hours  
Summer 2009 - Michael Riley, Instructor

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the evidences of the historic Christian faith. Biblical revelation and human reason will be used in refuting attacks on Christianity.

### **RATIONALE:**

The apologetics course at IBC helps to fulfill the College Mission and the focuses on the following educational objectives:

4. Students will develop a biblical worldview, which acknowledges God and His Word as the unifying center for all knowledge.
5. Students will learn to research, analyze, apply, and communicate persuasively, correctly, and clearly.

### **PREREQUISITES:**

None.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students will demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of apologetics by obtaining a passing grade on tests and quizzes.
2. Students will gain a greater ability to communicate persuasively by writing an argumentative paper.

### **COURSE WORK REQUIRED:**

1. Read the assigned material from Bahnsen's *Van Til's Apologetic* for each day. Keep notes on each day's reading assignment. Notes should consist of outlines, comments, and questions about the reading. The format is very flexible. These questions and comments will be collected for a completion grade.
2. Read *Five Views on Apologetics*.
3. Read 400 pages from the books listed in the course bibliography. Relevant reading from sources other than those listed in the bibliography will be accepted if cleared in advance by the instructor.
4. Complete a 12–15 page paper. This paper must follow the formatting and content requirements outlined by the instructor.

### **PREASSESSMENT:**

None

### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture, class discussion, listening to a recorded debate, and a research paper.

**COURSE RESOURCES:**

Bahnsen, Greg L. *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1998.

Bahnsen, Greg L., and Gordon Stein. *The Great Debate: Does God Exist?* Audio recording. Available for purchase from Covenant Media Foundation (<http://www.cmfnow.com/>).

Cowan, Steven B., editor. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

**EXAMS:**

There will be one exam in this course, which will be over the class lectures. The exams will consist entirely of essay questions, and these will be presented to the student in advance for preparation for the exam.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Day	Date	Reading	Lecture
Mon	June 22	Chapters 1–3 (143 pages)	1. Course introduction, Chapter 1 2. Chapter 2 3. Chapter 2 4. Chapter 3
Tue	June 23	Chapters 4, 6 (174 pages)	1. Chapter 4 2. Chapter 4 3. Chapter 4 4. Chapter 6
Wed	June 24	Chapter 5 (145 pages)	1. Chapter 5 2. Chapter 5 3. Chapter 5 4. Chapter 5
Thurs	June 25	Chapters 7, 9 (105 pages)	1. Chapter 7 2. Chapter 7 3. Chapter 7 4. Chapter 9
Fri	June 26	Chapter 8 (168 pages)	1. Chapter 8 2. Exam 3. <i>The Great Debate</i>

**COURSE EVALUATION METHOD:**

Reading Reports	10%
Test	30%
Paper	40%
Outside Reading	20%

All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for this course.

## **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**

### **Late Work:**

Habitually being late is a sign of poor character. It is the desire of IBC to teach character as well as academic content. Thus, late work will be severely penalized. Eight to twelve points will be subtracted for each class day that an assignment is late. Any work missed because of an absence must be made up upon the student's return to class. The instructor is under no obligation to accept late work.

### **Tardiness and Absences:**

Students who are tardy to class will receive demerits. Being tardy three times will equal one absence. Being tardy to class by more than fifteen minutes will be considered an absence. The student is permitted one absence for each credit hour without penalty. Each additional absence will reduce the student's final course grade by 2%. Being absent 25% of the classes will result in the loss of credit for the course.

### **Incompletes:**

All course work is due at the conclusion of the semester; a student who has failed to complete the required assignments by that date will not receive credit for those assignments. If the student wishes to have additional time to complete course work, it is his responsibility to request an extension. Any such requests must be submitted before the conclusion of the semester. The absolute deadline for late work, even with extensions, is 21 class days after the final day of the semester. No instructor is ever obligated to grant an extension.

### **Spelling:**

The failure to edit one's spelling is a poor reflection upon the student, the school attended, and ultimately upon the Lord. Thus, each misspelled word on formal papers or projects will result in the reduction of the final grade for that assignment.

### **Note:**

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule or assignments at his discretion.

## **Bibliography for Apologetics**

The following bibliography is quite extensive, and includes works on apologetics from a variety of perspectives. Not every book on this list is available in the IBC Media Center; however, most should be readily available through inter-library loan or purchase from a number of Internet-based bookstores. Remember that you should reading on the subject about which you are going to write your paper.

- Bahnsen, Greg L. *Always Ready: Directions for Defending the Faith*. Nacogdoches, TX: Covenant Media Foundation, 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings & Analysis*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1998.
- Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1987.
- Boa, Kenneth D. and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.
- Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Fifth Ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1960.
- Bush, L. Russ, ed. *Classical Readings in Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Carnell, Edward John. *An Introduction to Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948.
- Carson, Donald A. *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Cooper, John W. "Reformed Apologetics and the Challenge of Post-Modern Relativism." *Calvin Theological Journal* 28 (April 1993): 108–120.
- Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Craig, William Lane. *Apologetics: An Introduction*. Chicago: Moody, 1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Christ*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellon, 1989.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Knowing the Truth About the Resurrection: Our Response to the Empty Tomb*. Revised Edition. Ann Arbor: Servant, 1981.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1994.
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- Dockery, David S, ed. *The Challenge of Postmodernism: An Evangelical Engagement*. Wheaton,

- IL: Bridgepoint, 1995.
- Dunn, James D. G. *The Evidence for Jesus*. Louisville: Westminster, 1985.
- Edgar, William. "No News is Good News: Modernity, the Postmodern, and Apologetics." *Westminster Theological Journal* 57 (Fall 1995): 359–382.
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- Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith: Evangelical Responses to the Challenge of Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Truth or Consequences: The Promise & Perils of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Postmodern World: Discerning the Times and the Spirit of Our Age*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002.
- Frame, John M. *Apologetics to the Glory of God: An Introduction*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Cornelius Van Til: An Analysis of His Thought*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God. A Theology of Lordship*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1987.
- France, R. T. *The Evidence for Jesus*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1986.
- Geehan, E. R., ed. *Jerusalem and Athens: Critical Discussions on the Philosophy and Apologetics of Cornelius Van Til*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1971.
- Gerstner, John H. *Reasons for Faith*. New York: Harper, 1960.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Miracles and the Modern Mind: A Defense of Biblical Miracles*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990.
- Giesler, Norman and Peter Bocchino. *Unshakable Foundations: Contemporary Answers to Crucial Questions about the Christian Faith*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2001.
- Grant, Michael. *Jesus: An Historian's Review of the Gospels*. New York: Macmillan, 1977.

- Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Habermas, Gary R. and Anthony Flew. *Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? The Resurrection Debate*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Verdict on the Shroud: Evidence for the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. Ann Arbor: Servant, 1981.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*. San Diego: Harvest, 1955.
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