

Defending the Faith: An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

Spring 2010

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Meeting Place and Times:

Bridgeway Annex, Sundays 2:00-3:45 PM (March 7th through May 16th)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the discipline of Christian apologetics—a branch of theology which provides rational justification for the truth claims of the faith. We will be focusing on key issues involved in building a positive case for the faith and defending the faith from objections, including practical application in discussing Christian convictions with unbelievers. As appropriate, the class will identify popular, cultural expressions of key concepts in literature, music, film or other media.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Completing this course should:

- Enhance your personal spiritual development as a disciple of Jesus
- Introduce you to the discipline of Christian apologetics
- Help you articulate good reasons to believe Christianity is true
- Increase your familiarity with key objections to Christianity and biblical answers to intellectual, religious, and philosophical challenges
- Assist you in discussing your Christian convictions with unbelievers

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
- Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.
- Yahweh, *Holy Bible*¹

¹ While the instructor will read from the *New International Version* (NIV), you may also utilize other scholarly translations such as the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB). Note: The *Joseph Smith Inspired Version* and the *New World Translation* are not acceptable. They are not versions, but *per-versions*. They are not translations. They are abominations!

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Recommended
1	03/07/10	Introduction to Christian Apologetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Christian Apologetics? • Defending a defense of the faith 	<i>Koukl, Ch.1-2</i>
2	03/14/10	Faith: How Do I Know Christianity is True? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relationship of faith & reason • Showing Christianity is true 	<i>Craig, Ch.1</i>
3	03/21/10	Man: Naturalism on Trial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The absurdity of life without God • Evidence for the soul & immortality 	<i>Craig, Ch.2</i>
4	03/28/10	Christ: The Resurrection of Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 key historical principles • 5 “minimal facts” approach 	<i>Craig, Ch.8</i>
-	04/04/10	NO MEETING ON EASTER SUNDAY	<i>Koukl, Ch.12-13</i>
5	04/11/10	God: The Existence of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key theistic arguments • The problem of evil 	<i>Craig, Ch.3-4</i>
6	04/18/10	Creation: Miracles and Historical Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense of miracles • Reliability of the New Testament 	<i>Craig, Ch.5-6</i>
7	04/25/10	Ethics: The Bankruptcy of Relativism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postmodernism • Religious Pluralism 	<i>“What It Means to Me”</i>
8	05/02/10	Theology: Cults & New Religious Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cults of America • Neopaganism 	<i>TBA</i>
-	05/09/10	NO MEETING ON MOTHER’S DAY	<i>None</i>
9	05/16/10	Application: Discussing Christian Convictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactics in defending the faith • The ultimate apologetic 	<i>Koukl, Ch.3-6, 14</i>