



Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz
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School: Kingdom Preparatory Academy
Course Title: Christian Apologetics

I. Course Description

The purpose of this course is to ground the student in a rigorous defense of the truth of the Christian faith. To this end, in this course we will study, discuss, and reflect upon the nature of apologetics, the Biblical case for apologetics, the nature of truth and argumentation, the existence and nature of God, and the evidences supporting Christianity. These evidences will be of several types, including philosophical, historical, and scientific. We will also consider major objections to the Christian faith in light of these evidences.

II. Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Relate the issues of the inerrancy and trustworthiness of Scripture to apologetics.
2. Defend the deity and resurrection of Jesus Christ against the claims of skeptics.
3. Defend the concept of absolute truth against the claims of epistemic relativists, including postmodernists.
4. Defend the exclusivity of Jesus Christ against pluralism and inclusivism.
5. Discuss the nature of the apologetic task and the Biblical basis for apologetics.
6. Appraise the arguments for the existence of God through a critical response to challenges to Christian theism.

III. Course Text

Douglas Groothuis. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2022. ISBN: 978-1514002759.

IV. Course Assessments

Basic Grades	(20%): Bible passage journal responses
Intermediate Grades	(35%): In-class journal responses, in-class discussion participation
Major Grades	(45%): Papers, presentation, and written exam

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	Jan. 07 Jan. 09	Introduction to Apologetics Biblical Basis for Apologetics	Course Syllabus Chap. 1 Biblical Basis for Apologetics (pp. 9–32)	Intermediate Grade: What Is Apologetics?
2	Jan. 14 Jan. 16	Apologetic Method Truth and Knowing Reality	Chap. 2 Apologetic Method (pp. 41–53, 65–66) Chap. 6 Truth Defined and Defended (pp.120–36)	
3	Jan. 21 Jan. 23	Cosmological Arguments Kalam Cosmological Argument	Chap. 11 Cosmological Argmnts (pp. 201–6, 225–29) Chap. 11 Cosmological Arguments (pp. 206–25)	Importance of Apologetics Essay (Jan. 23)
4	Jan. 28 Jan. 30	Design Arguments Fine-Tuning Argument	Chap. 12 The Design Argument (pp. 230–43) Chap. 12 The Design Argument (pp. 243–53)	Intermediate Grade: Kalam Argument
5	Feb. 04 Feb. 06	Ethical Relativism and Objectivism The Moral Argument	Chap. 16 The Moral Argument for God (pp. 328–45) Chap. 16 The Moral Argument for God (pp. 345–62)	
6	Feb. 11 Feb. 13	Mind-Body Dualism Arguments for the Soul	Chap. 18 The Uniqueness of Humanity (pp. 388–94) Chap. 18 The Uniqueness of Humanity (pp. 394–406)	Natural Theology Essay (Feb. 13)
7	Feb. 18 Feb. 20	The Argument from Reason The Possibility of Miracles	Chap. 18 The Uniqueness of Humanity (pp. 406–13) Chap. 21 (pp. 478–80); Chap. 22 (pp. 567–81)	Intermediate Grade: Existence of the Soul
8	Feb. 25 Feb. 27	Historical Knowledge The New Testament Documents	Historical Knowledge Handout Chap. 21 Jesus of Nazareth (pp. 475–77); Handout	
9	Mar. 04 Mar. 06	The New Testament Writers Jesus’ Self-Understanding	Chap. 21 Jesus of Nazareth (pp. 448–61) Chap. 22 The Claims of Jesus Christ (pp. 488–98)	Intermediate Grade: Telephone Game Obj
10	Mar. 11 Mar. 13	The Synoptic Problem KPA Grand Tour Trip	Chap. 27 The Resurrection of Jesus (pp. 582–94) No Class	No Class
11	Mar. 18 Mar. 20	Spring Break	No Class	No Class
12	Mar. 25 Mar. 27	KPA Grand Tour Trip The Resurrection of Jesus	No Class Chap. 27 The Resurrection of Jesus (pp. 594–605)	No Class
13	Apr. 01 Apr. 03	Apologetics Presentations Apologetics Presentations	Chap. 21 Jesus of Nazareth (pp. 461–69)	Apologetics Presentations (Apr. 01) Apologetics Presentations (Apr. 03)
14	Apr. 08 Apr. 10	The Trilemma Argument Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible	Trilemma Argument Handout Chap. 22 The Claims of Jesus Christ (pp. 507–10)	
15	Apr. 15 Apr. 17	Religious Pluralism Destiny of the Unevangelized?	Chap. 29 Religious Pluralism (pp. 627–42) Chap. 29 Religious Pluralism (pp. 642–55)	Intermediate Grade: Resurrection of Jesus
16	Apr. 22 Apr. 24	The Problem of Evil Theodicies	Chap. 31 The Problem of Evil (pp. 668–77) Chap. 31 The Problem of Evil (pp. 677–85)	Jesus’ Resurrection Essay (Apr. 24)
17	Apr. 29 May 01	The Bible and Evil Faith and Reason	Chap. 31 The Problem of Evil (pp. 685–94) Faith and Reason Handout	Intermediate Grade: Problem of Evil
18	May 06 May 08	Scientism Naturalism and Creationism	Scientism Handout Naturalism and Creationism Handout	
19	May 13 May 15	Final Exam Review Written Exam	Final Exam Review	Written Exam (May 15)

V. Bibliography for Further Reading

General

Beckwith, Francis J., William Lane Craig, and J. P. Moreland, eds. *To Everyone and Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Copan, Paul. *That's Just Your Interpretation: Responding to Skeptics Who Challenge Your Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

———. *True for You, But Not for Me: Deflating the Slogans that Leave Christians Speechless*. Rev. ed. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 2009.

Craig, William Lane. *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2010.

———. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. 3rd ed. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2008.

Dembski, William A. and Michael R. Licona, eds. *Evidence for God: 50 Arguments for Faith from the Bible, History, Philosophy, and Science*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Geisler, Norman L. *The Big Book of Christian Apologetics: An A to Z Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.

———. *Christian Apologetics*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Geisler, Norman L., and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004.

Hindson, Ed, and Ergun Canner, eds. *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics: Surveying the Evidence for the Truth of Christianity*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2008.

Holden, Joseph M., ed. *The Harvest Handbook of Apologetics*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2018.

Truth and Knowing Reality

Dew, James K Jr. *How Do We Know? An Introduction to Epistemology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Kelly, Stewart E. *Truth Considered and Applied: Examining Postmodernism, History, and Christian Faith*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2011.

God's Existence

Craig, William Lane. *The Kalām Cosmological Argument*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2000.

Baggett, David, and Jerry L. Walls. *Good God: The Theistic Foundations of Morality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Dembski, William A. and Michael R. Licona. *Evidence for God: Fifty Arguments for Faith from the Bible, History, Philosophy, and Science*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Feser, Edward. *Five Proofs of the Existence of God*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2017.

Ross, Hugh. *The Creator and the Cosmos: How the Latest Scientific Discoveries Reveal God*. 4th ed. Covina: RTB Press, 2018.

Wallace, J. Warner. *God's Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines the Evidence for a Divinely Created Universe*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2015.

The Human Soul

Dirckx, Sharon. *Am I Just My Brain?* Charlotte: The Good Book Company, 2019.

Goetz, Stewart, and Charles Taliaferro. *A Brief History of the Soul*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Moreland, J. P. *The Soul: How We Know It's Real and Why It Matters*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Swinburne, Richard. *Are We Bodies or Souls?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Miracles

Geisler, Norman L. *Miracles and the Modern Mind: A Biblical Defense of Biblical Miracles*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Geivett, R. Douglas and Gary R. Habermas, eds. *In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Keener, Craig S. *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

The Bible

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2017.

Blomberg, Craig L. *The Historical Reliability of the New Testament: Countering the Challenges to Evangelical Christian Beliefs*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016.

Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

———. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* 6th ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1981.

Dickson, John. *Is Jesus History?* Charlotte: The Good Book Company, 2019.

Geisler, Norman L., and Thomas Howe. *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

Geisler, Norman L., and William E. Nix. *From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2003.

Lightfoot, Neil R. *How We Got the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Jesus' Resurrection

Bruce, F. F. *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1974.

Craig, William Lane. *The Son Rises: Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1981.

Habermas, Gary. *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*. Joplin: College Press, 1996.

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Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2013.

Religious Pluralism

Nash, Ronald H. *Is Jesus the Only Savior?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Sanders, John. *No Other Name: An Investigation into the Destiny of the Unevangelized*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1992.

———. *What About Those Who Have Never Heard? Three Views on the Destiny of the Unevangelized*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1995.

Zacharias, Ravi. *Jesus among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000.

Problem of Evil

Evans, Jeremy A. *The Problem of Evil: The Challenge to Essential Christian Beliefs*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2013.

Geisler, Norman L. *If God, Why Evil? A New Way to Think about the Question*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2011.

Jones, Clay. *Why Does God Allow Evil? Compelling Answers for Life's Toughest Questions*. Eugene: Harvest House, 2017.

Meister, Chad, and James K. Dew, Jr., eds. *God and Evil: The Case for God in a World Filled with Pain*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2013.

Faith and Reason

Wilkens, Steve, ed. *Faith and Reason: Three Views*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

Scientism

Goetz, Stewart, and Charles Taliaferro. *Naturalism*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2008.

Lennox, John C. *Can Science Explain Everything?* Charlotte: The Good Book Company, 2019.

Moreland, J. P. *Scientism and Secularism: Learning to Respond to a Dangerous Ideology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

God and the Old Testament

Copan, Paul. *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.

Copan, Paul and Matthew Flannagan. *Did God Really Command Genocide? Coming to Terms with the Justice of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2014.

Lamb, David T. *God Behaving Badly: Is the God of the Old Testament Angry, Sexist, and Racist?* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Theology

Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Enns, Paul. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

McGrath, Alister E. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. 2nd ed. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999.