Course Description

Apologetics concerns itself with the defense of Christian theism and the exposure of error in alternate worldviews. The present course is an overview of the principle points of apology from a presuppositional perspective.

Course Requirements

1. Daily Reading. There are two texts for the present course. The first is James Sire’s *The Universe Next Door (UND)*. It will be used at the beginning of the term. The second text is *Apologetics to the Glory of God (AGG)* by John Frame. The student is responsible for reading each text and following the daily schedule of reading assignments.

2. Research Project. A list of possible topics is given in the syllabus. These are only representative of the types of topics the student can choose. If there is an area of concern or interest in apologetics, consult the professor for approval. The research project composes 40% of the student’s final grade and is graded by the following rubric: Content (20%), Style (20%), Mechanics (20%). Logic (20%), & Research (20%).

3. Exams. Three exams are given during the semester. These are listed on the daily schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams:</th>
<th>60%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project:</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Course Objectives.

1. Each student will be introduced to the challenges facing Christian theology.

2. The students will be equipped to give a “defense to everyone who asks” regarding the Christian message.

3. The students will be prepared to lead others in defending their faith.

4. The students will be challenged to discipline themselves in the area of Christian thought.
Introduction to Apologetics (PH 6910)
2nd S/2014-15
Syllabus

Dr. John Mahony
(jmahony@mabts.edu)

Research Topics (PH 6910)

1. Immanuel Kant: The Impact of his Agnosticism upon Theology.
3. God as a First Cause: A Reassessment.
5. The Christian World-View.
6. An Overview of Van Tillian Presuppositionalism.
7. A Christian Defense of Regeneration as the major Pre-requisite for Apologetics.
8. Theodicy
9. The Resurrection of Jesus: Looking at the Evidence
10. Anselm's Ontological Argument in Current Usage.
12. Faith and Reason: Friends or Enemies?
16. Apologetic Response to Alternate Worldviews (Sire’s list)
17. Overview of Reformed Epistemology as an Apologetic Approach
18. The Apologetic of J. P. Moreland
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Daily Schedule

Session 1 (1/20): Syllabus Overview

Session 2 (1/21): Introduction to the Discipline

Session 3 (1/22): Introduction to the Discipline (AGG, 1)


Session 5 (1/28): History of Apologetics Prior to the Reformation

Session 6 (1/29): History of Apologetics after the Reformation—The Enlightenment

Session 7 (2/3): History of Apologetics: David Hume

Session 8 (2/4): History of Apologetics: Protestant Liberalism

Session 9 (2/5): Introduction to Worldview as a Concept (UND, 1)

Session 10 (2/10): History of the Concept: Original Worldview Thinkers

Session 11 (2/11): History of the Concept: 19th Century

Session 12 (2/12): History of the Concept: 20th Century

Session 13 (2/17): History of the Concept: Theological Reflections

Session 14 (2/18): Worldview: Philosophical Reflections

Session 15 (2/19): Worldview 1: Christian Theism (UND, 2)

Session 16 (2/24): Deism (UND, 3)

Session 17 (2/25): Naturalism (UND, 4)

Session 18 (2/26): Nihilism (UND, 5)

Session 19 (3/3): Existentialism (UND, 6)
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Session 20 (3/4): Eastern Pantheistic Monism (UND, 7)
Session 21 (3/5): New Age/Panentheism (UND, 8)
Session 22 (3/24): Postmodernity (UND, 9)
Session 23 (3/25): Exam
Session 24 (3/26): Application- “The Examined Life” (UND, 10)
Session 25 (3/31): Apologetic Methods: Overview
Session 26 (4/1): Apologetics Methods: Evidentialism
Session 27 (4/2): Apologetic Methods: Evidentialism
Session 28 (4/7): Apologetic Methods: Classical
Session 29 (4/8): Apologetic Methods: Classical
Session 30 (4/9): Apologetic Methods: Cumulative Case
Session 31 (4/14): Apologetic Methods: Cumulative Case
Session 32 (4/15): Apologetic Methods: Reformed Epistemology
Session 33 (4/16): Apologetic Methods: Reformed Epistemology
Session 34 (4/21): Apologetic Methods: Presuppositionalism
Session 35 (4/22): Apologetic Methods: Presuppositionalism
Session 36 (4/23): Exam
Session 37 (4/28): ARC- No Class
Session 38 (4/29): ARC- No Class
Session 39 (4/30): Epistemic Justification
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Session 40 (5/5): Methods of K: Normative Perspective

Session 41 (5/6): Methods of K: Situational P—Logic

Session 42 (5/7): Method in Apologetics: Proof—Issues (AGG, 3-5)

Session 43 (5/12): Method in Apologetics: Proof—Issues (AGG, 3-5)


Session 45 (5/14): Method in Apologetics: Offense—Critique of Unbelief (AGG, 8)

Final Exams: 5/19-20

Certification:
I have read the syllabus for Introduction to Apologetics (PH 6910) and understand each of the requirements for the course.

Signed: ________________________________
Bibliography


Anselm. *St. Anselm: Basic Writings*.

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*.


______. *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the*


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Flint, Robert. Agnosticism. NY: Charler Scribner’s Sons, 1903.


______. *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone.* Translated by T. M. Greene and H. H. Hudson. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 1960.


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______. *God and Other Minds: A Study of the Rational Justification of Belief in God.*
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Richardson, Alan. Christian Apologetics.


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______. *Classical Apologetics*.


______. *Toward a Reformed Apologetics*. 


Zacharias, Ravi K. *The Shattered Visage*


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