



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus
Winter Intersession 2013

Christian Apologetics
THEO 0534

Monday-Friday 8:30-11:30 am; 1:00-4:30 pm

January 7-11, 2013

Professor James A. Beverley

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To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I am available on campus all week of intersession. During the regular term I will be in my office Tuesday-Thursday. The most effective way to make an appointment is by email. If you need to reach me about something by phone, use my cell phone number.

When sending me an email please put Tyndale in subject line.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to **introduce** students to the field of Christian apologetics. Attention will be given to the rationale for apologetics and its place in contemporary society. Students will be introduced to different methodologies in defence of the faith and there will be attention to the central issues in apologetics. Classical issues in apologetics are addressed: the existence of God, the problem of pain, the authority of the Bible, the supremacy of Christ, creation-evolution and other religions. Students are also introduced to the impact of postmodernism in our culture.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the students will

(a) have access to the key information on crucial perspectives and developments in

apologetics

(b) have a greater ability to think critically in providing a defence of the Christian faith

(c) have gained the opportunity to grow spiritually in their understanding of the intellectual aspects of their personal faith.

(d) have better learned the art of exploring how apologetics should be carried out in a modern plus postmodern and pluralistic world.

III. TEXTS

James A. Beverley, *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009)

Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011)

IV. GRADING

Various assignment deadlines will be set at the start of the course. Final deadline for all course work is Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Attendance, Interview and Participation 10%

Attendance is expected at all classes. One or more unexcused absences of an intensive course constitute grounds for failing that course.

All students will have a half hour personal interview with Professor Beverley during the regular term. This will provide an opportunity for the student to share his/her life story and views in apologetics. Please prepare a one-page timeline of your life, birth to present, noting major family, educational, social and spiritual events/realities.

Book Responses 40%

Groothuis: Read all the book and comment on your reaction to each major segment of the book, noting areas of agreement and/or disagreement. Length: 1500 words.

Illustrated Guide: Read all the book and comment on your reaction to each major religion(s) covered in each chapter. Give your overall reaction about how you think the Gospel compares or contrasts with non-Christian faiths. Length: 1500 words.

Research Project 30%

2,500 words. On any topic central in apologetics. Must be approved by Professor.

Final Take Home Exam 20%

Summary of assignments and grading

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Attendance, Interview, Participation	10 %
Book Responses	40 %
Research Project	30 %
Final Take Home Exam	20%
Total Grade	100 %

IV. TOPICS AND SCHEDULE

Jan 7, am	Course Introduction/ Methodology
Jan 7, pm	Methodology/Postmodern Context/Theodicy (Existence of God)
Jan 8, am	Theodicy (Existence of God)
Jan 8, pm	Theodicy (Evil and Suffering)/Apologetics and Jesus Christ
Jan 9, am	Apologetics and Jesus Christ
Jan 9, pm	Apologetics and Jesus Christ
Jan 10, am	Biblical Authority
Jan 10, pm	Biblical Authority/Other Faiths
Jan 11, am	Other Faiths/Science Issues
Jan 11, pm	Science Issues/Conclusion

Methodology deals with proper method in defence of Christian faith, with the nature and value of apologetics, and with the proper relationship of faith and reason.

Theodicy deals with the proofs for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the possibility of miracles, and related issues.

Christology deals with the historicity of Jesus, the reliability of the Gospels, the evidence for the Resurrection, and the centrality of Jesus for apologetics.

Biblical authority deals with the reliability of the Bible, the question of inerrancy, historical integrity, and related issues.

Gospel and Other Faiths examines the various perspectives offered in current Christian theology about the Gospel and other faiths, and introduces students to select religions

Science Issues deals with the interplay between Christianity and science, and the issue of evolution, and the rise of the Intelligent Design perspective

V. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>.

Academic Integrity: Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

Plagiarism

Please credit all sources in research. Plagiarism is a serious offense to high standards of academics and morality.

English Comprehension

If you are not proficient in writing or understanding English, please check with the Tyndale Writing Centre for assistance (<http://www.tyndale.ca/writingcentre>).

Notice on Written Assignments

On every assignment please put your name, phone number(s), student number, date assignment due, and date assignment handed in.

Special Note about Assignment Due Dates

Every student can ask for an extension without penalty due to extreme circumstances. Please inform Professor Beverley of these special circumstances in writing.

Official Seminary policy on end of term deadlines...

Faculty may NOT grant an extension on assignments beyond the final deadline given above (Sunday, March 10, 2013). Students who have not submitted an assignment by this date will receive a grade of F for the assignment, unless official permission has been obtained from the Registrar due to extreme and extenuating circumstances (see [Academic Calendar](#)).

VI. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bell, Rob. [*Love Wins*](#). New York: HarperCollins, 2011.
- Boa, Kenneth and Robert Bowman, Jr. [*Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*](#). Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.
- Brueggemann, Walter. [*The Word that Redescribes the World*](#). Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- Campbell-Jack, W. Campbell, and Gavin McGrath. *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics*. C. Stephen Evans, Consulting ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.
- Chan, Francis, and Preston Sprinkle. *Erasing Hell*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2011.
- Cook, David. *Blind Alley Beliefs*. New Edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.
- Cowan, Steven, ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith*. Third Edition Wheaton: Crossway, 2008.
- Dawkins, Richard. [*The God Delusion*](#). London: Transworld, 2006.
- Evans, C. Stephen. *Philosophy of Religion: Thinking About Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1982.
- Groothuis, Douglas. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.
- Keller, Timothy. [*The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Scepticism*](#). London: Hodder and Stoughton 2009.
- Lennox, John. *Gunning for God*. Oxford: Lion, 2011.
- Lewis, C. S. [*The Problem of Pain*](#). New York: Harper-Collins, 1996.
- Lewis, C.S. [*Miracles*](#). New York: Harper-Collins, 2001.
- Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. (any edition).
- McGrath, Alister. *Dawkins' God*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
- McGrath, Alister, and Joanna Collicutt McGrath. [*The Dawkins Delusion?*](#) London: SPCK, 2009.
- Moreland, J.P., and William Lane Craig. [*Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*](#). Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.
- Naugle, David. [*Worldview: The History of a Concept*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Plantinga, Alvin. [*Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion and Naturalism*](#). Oxford: OUP, 2011.
- Plantinga, Alvin. [*God, Freedom and Evil*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Plantinga, Alvin, *Warranted Christian Belief*, New York: OUP, 2000.
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/plantinga/warrant3.html>
- Sire, James. [*Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept*](#). Downers Grove: IVP 2004.
- Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door*. Fifth Edition Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.
- Stackhouse, John. *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today*. New York and Oxford: OUP, 2002.
- Stackhouse, John. *No Other Gods Before Me? Evangelicals and the Challenge of World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Swinburne, Richard. [*Is There a God?*](#) Revised ed. Oxford: OUP, 2010.
- Swinburne, Richard. *The Evolution of the Soul*, 1997.
<http://www.giffordlectures.org/Browse.asp?PubID=TPMBAS&Cover=TRUE>)
- Ward, Keith. [*Why There Almost Certainly is a God*](#). Oxford: Lion, 2008.

Wilkins, Steve and Mark Sanford. *Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories that Shape our Lives*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Other links:

- Tyndale online Apologetics reading room:
<http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/missional/apologetics>
- <http://www.apologetics315.com/> Loads of links, interviews, articles and other resources.
- www.apologetics.org Official site of the CS Lewis Society - loads of helpful and thoughtful resources
- www.apologetics.com A useful site with a dedicated staff
- www.rzim.org Site of Ravi Zacharias Ministries