



Introduction to Christian Apologetics Class Outline

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)



June 1st and 8th

- Introduction

- Discuss what Apologetics is/is not
- Why is Apologetics needed?
- Discuss the Biblical foundations for Apologetics
- Brief history of Apologetics
- Discuss Positive vs Negative Apologetics
- Discuss the main forms of Apologetics
 - Testimonial
 - Presuppositional
 - Psychological
 - Philosophical
 - Historical
 - Scientific
 - Comparative Religious Apologetics
 - Cultural



June 15th

- How do I know that Christianity is true?
 - What is the nature and relationship of faith and reason?
 - Question: Is faith without an evidential basis rational and justified?
 - Proposition: Christianity is the only self-consistent worldview
 - Let's explore that proposition
 - Brief survey of other worldviews



June 22nd

- The absurdity of life without God
 - Our purpose in life: To know God and to make Him known.
 - “And this is the way to have eternal life-to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” John 17:3
 - If you don't have eternal life; do you die and that is the end of it all?
- Discuss the meaning of absolute truth.
- Discuss absolute moral law.
 - Discuss the moral argument for the existence of God.
 - If there are absolute moral laws, then we can argue for an absolute moral Law Giver
- The problem of evil



June 29th and July 6th

- Arguments for the existence of God.
 - The cosmological argument
 - Law of cause and effect
 - Does the universe have a beginning?
 - The “kalam” argument
 - The teleological argument
 - Is there an Intelligent Designer?
 - Cosmic fine-tuning
 - Scientific case for Creation and against evolution



July 13th and 20th

- Historical Apologetics
 - Old Testament reliability
 - New Testament reliability
 - Historical evidence for Christ's Resurrection
 - Is Jesus God?
 - His miracles
 - His references to "Abba"
 - How do we know that the Bible is the inerrant word of God?



July 27th

- Specific approaches to use with other worldviews
 - General approach to non-Christian religions,
 - And some specifics:
 - Judaism
 - Islam
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - General approach to religions that claim the Bible to be God's Word, but are seriously misinterpreting,
 - And some specifics:
 - Mormonism
 - Jehovah's Witness
 - Christian Science



August 3rd

- Reasoning to God from the ground up.
 - Principle of existence
 - Principle of identity
 - Principle of non-contradiction
 - Principle of excluded middle
 - Principle of causality
- Reasoning to Christianity from the ground up.
 - A summation of all that we have talked about is presented in a straight-forward, coherent set of premises in an argument form



August 10th

- Provide a quick recap of the material covered
- Longer Q and Q session
 - Question: Is a class in Apologetic Methods worthwhile, probably next year?
 - Thinking of a set of role-playing activities where we act out encounters with unbelievers
 - Maybe ending in an outreach, as part of Grace Fellowship's outreach, where we try to reason with people who may be unbelievers.
- Let's have a potluck as the ending session where we discuss this.



Bibliography

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2. Winfried Corduan, *Neighboring Faiths, 2nd ed.*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012
3. Josh McDowell, *The NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, Dallas, TX: Thomas Nelson, 1999
4. Norman L. Geisler and Paul D. Feinberg, *Introduction to Philosophy: A Christian Perspective, Paperback Ed.*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1987
5. Norman L. Geisler and Ronald M. Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences, 2nd ed.*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013



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6. Norman Geisler and Peter Bocchino, *Unshakeable Foundations: Contemporary Answers to Crucial Questions about the Christian Faith*, Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2001
7. Phil Fernandes, *CONTEND EARNESTLY for the FAITH: A Survey of Christian Apologetics*, Baltimore, MD: PublishAmerica LLLP, 2008
8. New Living Translation Bible: www.biblestudytools.com/nlt
9. Alvin Plantinga, *WHERE THE CONFLICT REALLY LIES: Science, Religion and Naturalism*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011
10. Caroline Leaf, *SWITCH ON YOUR BRAIN: The Key to Peak Happiness, Thinking and Health, Paperback ed.*, Grand Rapids, MI, Baker Books, 2015
11. Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough FAITH to Be an ATHEIST, STIFF WRAPS ed.*, Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004
12. Norman L. Geisler, *Christian Apologetics*, New York, New York, Maximillian Company, 1976

Bibliography

- Thomas Aquinas, “Summa Theologiae”, Timothy McDermott, ed., Westminster Christian Classics, 1989



WEBSITES

- www.reasonablefaith.org
William Lane Craig's Website
- www.rzim.org
Ravi Zacharias' Website
- www.str.org
Stand to Reason Website
- www.intelligentfaith315.com
Great "Intelligent Faith" podcasts on Christian Apologetics and questions Christians may have.
- <http://crossexamined.org/>
Frank Turek's Website
- www.veritas.org
Great "Refutation" Website
- <http://www.inspiringphilosophy.org/>
Good website discussing Apologetics, Philosophy and Science
- <https://carm.org/>
Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry
- <http://www.acts17.net/>
Compendium of Apologetics Resources



WEBSITES

- www.reasons.org
Hugh Ross – Old Earth Creationist
- <http://instituteofbiblicaldefense.com/>
Phil Fernandes' Podcasts on Apologetics and other topics in Theology

Finally, Most of the websites listed have pointers to many other websites/
resources



WEBSITES

OTHER RESOURCES:

- Websites adopting a pre-suppositional approach to Apologetics:
 - <http://www.aomin.org/>
 - <http://www.apologiachurch.com/>
- “Traditionalist” approach to Apologetics :
 - <http://www.soteriology101.com/>
- Theology Studies and related course material:
 - www.credo.org