

RATIONAL & RELATIONAL FAITH

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course equips students to give rational explanations for Christianity as well as to present Christian truth on a personal and relational level to non-Christians and those struggling to keep their faith. We will consider concrete ways to implement and integrate apologetics personally, occupationally, in the local church, and the world at large.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To equip students to understand the times and develop an apologetic method and competence to address the issues that keep people from the Gospel. To critically evaluate systems of thought that compete for the minds of men and women and consider solutions to the major problems that confront the biblical position today in a postmodern world. Positively, to build a cumulative case argument for Christian theism so that believers may know and show their faith better. Students will learn both the arguments for Christianity and how to relationally engage unbelievers with Christian truth. Relational engagement requires skills in loving, praying, listening, the creative initiation of apologetic discussions, and more.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE:

DATE	TOPIC
04/15/2020	Introduction
04/22/2020	Ontological Argument
04/29/2020	Cosmological Argument
05/06/2020	Teleological Argument
05/13/2020	Moral Argument
05/20/2020	Christian Evidences
05/27/2020	The Problem of Evil
06/03/2020	Bring It Open Forum

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (please note that my inclusion of some of these authors does not necessarily imply my endorsement of all of their opinions):

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels As Eyewitness Testimony*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017.

Blomberg, Craig. *Can We Still Believe the Bible?: An Evangelical Engagement with Contemporary Questions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2014.

Boyd, Gregory A. *Cross Vision: How the Crucifixion of Jesus Makes Sense of Old Testament Violence*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018.

Boyd, Gregory A., and Edward K. Boyd. *Letters from a Skeptic: A Son Wrestles with His Father's Questions about Christianity*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2008.

Boyd, Gregory A. *Is God to Blame?: Moving Beyond Pat Answers to the Problem of Suffering*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Boyd, Gregory A., and Paul R. Eddy. *Lord or Legend?: Wrestling with the Jesus Dilemma*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010.

Campbell-Jack, Walter Campbell., Gavin McGrath, and C. Stephen. Evans. *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics*. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2006.

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

Craig, William Lane. *God Is Great, God Is Good: Why Believing in God Is Reasonable and Responsible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2009.

———. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. Wheaton (Ill.): Crossway Books, 2008.

———. *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

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

Farah, Gregg Peter. *52 Reasons to Believe*. New York: Carpenter's Son Pub, 2015.

Feser, Edward. *The Last Superstition: A Refutation of the New Atheism*. South Bend, Ind: St. Augustine's Press, 2011.

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2013.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2011.

- Guinness, Os. *Fools Talk: Recovering the Art of Christian Persuasion*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Habermas, Gary R., and Michael R. Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004.
- Hart, David Bentley. *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies*. Yale University Press, 2010.
- . *The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011.
- Heiser, Michael S. *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015.
- Keener, Craig S. *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Penguin, 2016.
- Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Zondervan, 2009.
- Lennox, John C. *Gunning for God: Why the New Atheists Are Missing the Target*. Oxford: Lion, 2011.
- Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. Harpercollins Publishers, 2017.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers and Skeptics Find Faith*. London: SPCK, 2016.
- McDowell, Josh, and Sean McDowell. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World*. Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 2017.
- Moreland, James Porter. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017.
- Morris, Thomas V. *Our Idea of God: An Introduction to Philosophical Theology*. Vancouver: Regent College Pub., 2002.
- . *The Logic of God Incarnate*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001.
- Morrow, Jonathan. *Questioning the Bible: 11 Major Challenges to the Bible's Authority*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- . *Think Christianly: Looking at the Intersection of Faith and Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- Plantinga, Alvin. *Warranted Christian Belief*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

- . *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism*. New York: Oxford University Press Inc, 2012.
- Pojman, Louis P., and Michael C. Rea. *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2012.
- Polkinghorne, J. C., and Nicholas Beale. *Questions of Truth: Fifty-One Responses to Questions about God, Science, and Belief*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.
- Pruss, Alexander R., and Joshua Rasmussen. *Necessary Existence*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Purtill, Richard L. *C.S. Lewis' Case for the Christian Faith*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004.
- Rhodes, Ron. *5-Minute Apologetics for Today: 365 Quick Answers to Key Questions*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2010.
- Rees, Martin J. *Just Six Numbers: The Deep Forces That Shape the Universe*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2015.
- Schwartz, Jeffrey, and Sharon Begley. *The Mind and the Brain: Neuroplasticity and the Power of Mental Force*. New York, NY: HC, 2007.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- . *The Case for Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- . *The Case for a Creator*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Swinburne, Richard. *Is There a God?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Van Inwagen, Peter. *Metaphysics*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2015.
- Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2017.
- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Spck Publishing, 2017.
- Zacharias, Ravi K., and Kevin Johnson. *Jesus Among Other Gods*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017.
- Zacharias, Ravi K., and Vince Vitale. *Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Countercultural Claims of Christ*. New York: Faith Words/Hachette Book Group, 2017.
- Zacharias, Ravi K. *The End of Reason: A Response to the New Atheists*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.