

APOLOGETICS
Mikado School of Bible
Spring 2011

I. Course Introductory Information

- A. Course Title: Apologetics
- B. Course Days: Sunday mornings, February 6 to May 1, 2011
- C. Class Time: 9:45 – 10:45 AM
- D. Instructor: Todd Robinson, M.A. in Biblical Studies
- E. Phone Number: 478-442-7002 (Cell)
- F. Email: f.todd.robinson@gmail.com

II. Course Description

In this course we will study the basic principles of defending the Christian faith against philosophies hostile to Christianity or simply giving answers to questions about God, Jesus, creation, the resurrection and other Bible passages.

III. Course Objectives

As a result of taking this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Understand the elements of biblical defense of the faith
- B. Apply the principles of apologetics in a pluralistic and doubting world
- C. Use the principles of apologetics to strengthen their own faith and resolve personal doubts
- D. Disciple other Christians that are struggling with difficult Bible issues

IV. Course Outline

Part 1: Background of apologetics

- Apologetics defined
- Apologetics defended

Part 2: Battlefield of apologetics

- Roadblocks (hypocrisy vs. hostility)
- How do I know God is real?
- Hasn't science disproved biblical creation?
- How do I know the Bible is true or authentic?
- Was Jesus really the Son of God or just a good man?
- Is Jesus the only way to heaven?
- How could a loving God allow evil to exist in the world?

V. Course Texts

1. A copy of the Bible (please bring to every class)
2. Bahnsen, Greg L., *Always Ready: Directions for Defending the Faith*, (Nacogdoches, TX: Covenant Media Press, 1996)
3. Instructor's notes and handouts

VI. Materials and Methods of Instruction

- A. Lecture will cover topics intended to provide a foundational knowledge of both biblical defense of the faith and critical issues.
- B. Discussion will be guided by the instructor to help the class expand knowledge into understanding. Students are encouraged to participate.
- C. Reading assignments are provided on the weekly schedule below. Every effort should be made to complete the reading listed before the class period. (Example: the reading assignment listed for week 2 should be read prior to attending the week 2 session.) An attempt has been made to keep the amount of reading reasonable. If a student falls behind one week, every effort should be made to catch up as soon as possible. The content of the reading is intended to augment the class lecture but will not be duplicated in the lectures.

VII. Course Requirements

- A. Read the course notes and assigned pages in the textbook.
- B. Participate in class discussions.

VIII. Course Evaluation

A common method of evaluating the progress of students is to issue grades. The problem with this method, especially in a setting such as Mikado School of Bible, is that grades can become a negative motivation. Students work for the purpose of a grade and not for the purpose of learning. From an administrative standpoint, assignments in this course will be evaluated on the basis of completion. However, **from the student perspective, every effort should be made to complete the assignments to the best of his or her ability for the purpose of spiritual growth.** The purpose of the School of Bible is to help you understand and love God's Word more. If you grow in your knowledge of God's Word and in your personal walk with God, then this course will be a success!

IX. Course Policies

- A. Class attendance is highly encouraged; only two absences are allowed. All classes will be video taped and available to you through the Mikado

Baptist Church website at <http://mikadobaptist.org/ministries/school-of-bible/sbaudio/> in order to make up missed classes.

B. Come ready and willing to engage and discuss the material.

X. Schedule

Week 1 (Sunday, February 6)

Classroom Topic: Background of Apologetics:
Defined and Defended

Week 2 (Sunday, February 13)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 1-3
Classroom Topic: Battlefield of Apologetics: Roadblocks

Week 3 (Sunday, February 20)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 4-6
Classroom Topic: How do I know God is real?

Week 4 (Sunday, February 27)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 7-9
Classroom Topic: How do I know God is real?

Week 5 (Sunday, March 6)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 10-12
Classroom Topic: Hasn't science disproved biblical creation?

Week 6 (Sunday, March 13)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 13-14
Classroom Topic: Hasn't science disproved biblical creation?

Week 7 (Sunday, March 20)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 15-17
Classroom Topic: Hasn't science disproved biblical creation?

Week 8 (Sunday, March 27)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 18-19
Classroom Topic: How do I know the Bible is true/authentic?

Week 9 (Sunday, April 3)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 20-22
Classroom Topic: How do I know the Bible is true/authentic?

Week 10 (Sunday, April 10)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 23-24
Classroom Topic: Was Jesus really the Son of God or just a good man?

Week 11 (Sunday, April 17)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 25-28
Classroom Topic: Was Jesus really the Son of God or just a good man?

Week 12 (Sunday, April 24)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 29-31
Classroom Topic: Is Jesus the only way to heaven?

Week 13 (Sunday, May 1)

Read: Bahnsen Ch. 32-34
Classroom Topic: How could a loving God allow evil to exist?

XI. Tools for further study

NOTE: The following list of tools is intended to be used by the student who is interested in further study. This list is not intended to endorse the viewpoint of a book or author. When in doubt about an author or a book, always ask your pastor for his insight.

Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell (Nelson, 1979)
An unparalleled defense of Christianity. Josh McDowell is a popular apologist who provides scholarly, intelligent and well-grounded answers backed by solid evidence to honest questions about the Bible.

The Long War Against God by Henry Morris (Master Books, 2000)
This book is an excellent tool that explains the impact of evolution throughout history on our modern thought, politics, education, religion, and public school system. One of my very favorite books.

You Can Trust the Bible by Erwin W. Lutzer (Moody, 2008)
A well written, clear, and concise book that addresses seven foundational arguments against the Bible.

The Ten Most Common Objections to Christianity, Alex McFarland (Regal, 2007)
Alex McFarland is an apologist who engages many skeptics at the teen and college level. This book is written on a very basic and simple level, easy to understand and addresses very real questions that people have about God, Jesus and the Bible.

The Evolution of a Creationist by Jobe Martin (Biblical Discipleship Publishers, 2002)
This book chronicles Dr. Martin's personal journey as a traditional scientist and evolutionist. His study of science and animals over the years however challenged his evolutionary scientific assumptions. This began his "evolution" from evolutionist to creationist. This is a

fascinating book packed that also looks at many animals that break all the evolutionary rules. Another top ten book for me.

The Incomparable Christ by J. Oswald Sanders (Moody, 2006)

This book follows Jesus through His pre-existence, early life on earth, earthly ministry, death, burial resurrection, and on to His second coming. It discusses the teachings and events that reveal Christ's dynamic uniqueness. This book will help you to gain a greater understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Bible Doctrines for Today by Michael C. Bere (A Beka Books, 1996)

This is a textbook written on the high school level that addresses eight key Bible doctrines (The Bible, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Man, Salvation, the Church, Angels, and the End Times). Though this is a textbook, I believe you will enjoy it as a personal discipleship tool and strengthening your knowledge of the Bible's reliability.

Stand by Alex McFarland (Tyndale, 2005)

Stand will help you understand the reality of Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Reference Tools:

E-sword electronic Bible software, www.e-sword.org

A great free tool for Bible study. You can easily search the Bible, access the Strong's numbers, and much more.

Power Bible electronic Bible software, www.powerbible.com

Another great electronic Bible program including Bible search tool, commentaries, dictionaries, and topical references. Similar to the software program E-sword.

Blue Letter Bible, www.blueletterbible.org.

The Blue Letter Bible has over 4,000,000 links onsite to over 165,000 pages of concordances, lexicons, dictionaries, commentaries, images, and Bible versions.

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, www.rzim.org

Distinctive in its strong evangelistic and apologetic foundation, RZIM intends to touch both the heart and the intellect of the thinkers and opinion-makers of society and to reach and challenge those who shape the ideas of a culture with the credibility of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Charts of Apologetics and Christian Evidences by H. Wayne House and Joseph M. Holden (Zondervan, 2006)

There are many approaches and methods to apologetics. This book of apologetics charts help to break down these methods and approaches on quick, easy to read reference points for those who need essential information quickly.

Pocket Dictionary of Apologetics and Philosophy of Religion by C. Stephen Evans (InterVarsity Press, 2002)

We all use big words that are unknown to others. Biblical scholarship is guilty as well. This dictionary helps break down the barriers caused by big words and helps you understand the key theological concepts

God of Wonders: Exploring the Wonders of Creation, Conscience, and the Glory of God (Video) (Eternal Productions, 2008).

A remarkable journey that explores the handiwork and character of God. A breathtaking look at the universe, the complexity of DNA and the miraculous and functional design of plants and animals that leads us to see the greatest wonder of all, God's redeeming love.