

**Birmingham Theological Seminary  
2200 Briarwood Way  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243  
205-776-5354**

**Fall 2010  
AP 8611 ADVANCED APOLOGETICS I  
Professor: Dr. Steve Cowan  
2 hours**

**SYLLABUS  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE**

An in-depth study of the positive case for the Christian faith. The course will include discussions of faith and reason, arguments for God's existence, miracles, and evidence for the resurrection and deity of Christ.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will be able to articulate a theologically and philosophically sound view of the relationship between faith and reason.
2. The student will be able to explain the major arguments for the existence of God, the plausibility of miracles, the authority of Scripture, and the resurrection and deity of Christ.
3. The student will be able to describe the possible objections that may be made to the arguments for Christianity, and give plausible responses to those objections.

**COURSE TEXTS**

**Required Texts:**

Copan, Paul and Paul K. Moser, eds. *The Rationality of Theism*. Routledge, 2003. ISBN: 0415263328  
Copan, Paul and Ronald K. Tacelli, eds. *Jesus' Resurrection: Fact or Figment?* InterVarsity, 2000.  
ISBN: 0830815694

**Collateral Texts:**

Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Crossway, 2008. ISBN: 9781433501159  
Sennett, James F. and Douglas Groothuis, eds. *In Defense of Natural Theology*. InterVarsity, 2005.  
ISBN: 9780830827671  
Habermas, Gary R. and Michael R. Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Kregel, 2004.  
ISBN: 0825427886

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignments on time and participation in class discussion.
3. *Reading Synopses*. Each student will write a one-page (single-spaced) synopsis of at least one of the reading assignments for each class period. Each synopsis should (1) summarize the main argument(s)/point(s) of the author (approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the paper), and (2) offer some critical reflections on the reading (approx.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the paper). Each synopsis is worth 10 points. The top 10 of them will count toward the student's final grade.
4. *Apologetics Lecture*. Each student will prepare a written lecture that can be presented in 30-35 minutes. The lecture should be a presentation of material pertinent to the course subject matter and must be presented at a level appropriate to an adult lay audience. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Each student will present his lecture to the class. This project is worth 100 points.

## GRADING

The student's final grade will be based upon the average of the total points received on the reading synopses and the apologetics lecture, and adjusted for excessive absences and/or failure to participate in class discussions.

## BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial. All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>		<b>Text Pages</b>
9/13	Introduction to Course Postmodernism and the Question of Truth Apologetic Methodology	Handout
9/20	Faith, Reason, and Knowledge	RT 35-53, 72-87
9/27	God's Existence	RT 93-115, Handout

10/4	God's Existence (cont.)	RT 116-129, Handouts
10/11	God's Existence (cont.)	RT 132-168
10/25	Miracles	RT 221-232
11/1	Historical Knowledge Jesus' Self-Identity	Handouts
11/8	Jesus' Resurrection	JR 7-62
11/15	Jesus' Resurrection (cont.)	JR 63-103
11/22	Jesus' Resurrection (cont.)	JR 149-206
11/29	Class Presentations	
12/13	Class Presentations	

### APOLOGETICS BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beckwith, Francis J., William Lane Craig, J.P. Moreland. *To Everyone an Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004.
- Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2007.
- Bruce, F.F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1960.
- Boa, Kenneth and Robert Bowman. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Cowan, Steven B., ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Miracles and the Modern Mind*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Geisler, Norman, ed. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Geisler, Norman and Chad V. Meister, eds. *Reasons for Faith*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.
- Habermas, Gary R. and Michael R. Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Kregel, 2004.
- Moreland, J.P. *Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.
- Murray, Michael J., ed. *Reason for the Hope Within*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Sennett, James F. and Douglas Groothuis, eds. *In Defense of Natural Theology*. InterVarsity, 2005.
- Wilkins, Michael and J.P. Moreland, eds. *Jesus Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.