

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

Spring 2010

AP 8525 APOLOGETICS AND THE BIBLE

Professor: Mr. Brandon Robbins

Email:Brandon@arcapologetics.org

SYLLABUS

Work Phone: (205) 243.7912

2 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE

A study of the defense of the historical reliability, inerrancy, and divine authority of the Bible. The course will focus on giving responses to major objections to the reliability and authority of the Bible, including the challenges of contemporary historical Jesus research. The purpose of the course is to equip the student to give a sound and persuasive defense of the Bible's inspiration and authority.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will become familiar with the skeptical objections that may be made to biblical inerrancy and authority.
2. The student will become familiar with the methods and findings of current historical Jesus research.
3. The student will develop a sound apologetic response to the objections to biblical inerrancy and authority and to the skeptical findings of historical Jesus research.
4. The student will learn a theological and philosophical rationale for biblical inerrancy and authority.

COURSE TEXTS

Geisler, Norman L. Ed. *Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.

Geisler, Norman L, and Nix, William e, *From God to us*. Moody Press, 1974

Oliphint, Scott, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*. P&R, 2003

Wright, N. T. *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*. HarperOne, 2011
ISBN-10: 0062011952

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Quizzes.** There will be three take-home quizzes during the course. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answers. Each quiz is worth 15 points.
2. **Term Paper.** Each student will be required to write a 12-page research paper relevant to the content and purposes of the course. Further instructions for this paper will be provided later by your instructor. This paper is worth 30 points.
3. **Final Exam.** The Final will be worth 25 points toward your total grade.

GRADE: The student's final grade will be based upon the average of the total points received on the quizzes, final exam and term paper.

Note: All papers are to be according to the Turabian Chicago style of writing format including the title. All are to be double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font. Any paper not conforming to these standards will be dropped one letter grade. (See Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*

(Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing), sixth edition.

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

Unit I: The Explication of the Divine Authority of Scripture

- 1/24 Challenges to Inspiration and Inerrancy
What Do We Mean by "Inspired"?
- 1/31 What Do We Mean by "Inerrant"?
- Why Do We Restrict Inerrancy to the Autographs?
- 2/7 Was the Bible Accurately Transmitted?
- 2/14 Do We Have the Right Canon?

Quiz 1

Unit II: The Rationale for the Divine Authority of Scripture

- 2/21 God & the Expectation for Revelation
- 2/28 The Nature of Authority
- 3/6 Enlightenment and the possibility of Miracles
- 3/13 The self-authenticating nature of scripture
- 3/20 The role of Scripture in Apologetics
- 3/27 Jesus' & the Apostles' View of Scripture

Quiz 2

Unit III: The Rationality of the Divine Authority of Scripture

- 4/3 Other Evidences for the Inspiration of the Bible
Dealing with Alleged Errors
- 4/10 Dealing with Alleged Errors (cont.)
- 4/17 Critique of Higher Criticism
- 4/24 Rationality of Inerrancy

Quiz 3