

**Birmingham Theological Seminary**  
**AP8521 Apologetics**  
**Dr. Steve Cowan**

INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS (AP 8521)

Instructor: Dr. Steve Cowan

Class Hours: 2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE**

A study of the defense of the Christian faith. Topics discussed will include apologetic methodology, arguments for God's existence, miracles, evidence for the deity and resurrection of Jesus, and responses to several major objections to the Christian faith. The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the field of Christian apologetics and provide him/her with some basic knowledge and skill in defending the Christian faith. Additionally, for the apologetics major, the course will provide a foundation for more advanced studies in apologetics.

*\*\*This course is the same as ST3534 Apologetics under the Systematic Theology Department.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will be able to define the task of Christian apologetics and provide a biblical basis for doing apologetics.
2. The student will be able to articulate a biblical approach to faith and reason and to apologetic methodology.
3. The student will be able to articulate and defend a positive case for the Christian faith.
4. The student will be able to respond to several major objections to the Christian faith.

**COURSE TEXT** (*Clicking the links below requires an Internet connection. The links will take you to an online store to purchase the texts.*)

Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1994.

Boa Kenneth, & Larry Moody. *I'm Glad You Asked*. Chariot Victor Books, 1995.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Response Paper. Each student will complete a minimum of two pages for each text assigned above. This paper should be a response to the reading, displaying the student's understanding of the material. This should not simply be a report of the book.
2. Research Paper. Each student will write a 12-16 page research paper on any subject within the field of apologetics. All citations should conform to the Turabian style.
3. Exams. There will be a mid-term and a final exam.

## COURSE GRADE

The student's final grade will be based upon the average of the total points received on each of the following. The value of these is indicated below:

Response Paper Pass/Fail

Research Paper 100

Mid-term Exam 100

Final Exam 100

## COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Lecture #	Subject	WLC Readings	B&M Readings
1	Introduction to the Course, What Is Apologetics?, Apologetic Methodology		
2	Faith and Reason	Chapter 1	
3	Christianity and the Meaning of Life	Chapter 2	
4	Arguments for God's Existence	Chapter 3	Chapter 3
5	Arguments for God's Existence (cont.)		
6	Miracles	Chapter 4	Chapter 4
7	Historical Knowledge	Chapter 5	
8	The Historical Reliability of the New Testament	Chapter 6	Chapter 6
9	The Historical Reliability of the New Testament (cont.)		
10	Who Did Jesus Claim to Be?	Chapter 7	
11	The Resurrection	Chapter 8	pp 63-73
12	A Case for Biblical Authority		pp. 102-107
13	Dealing with Biblical Difficulties		
14	Ethical Problems in Scripture The Problem of the Canon		pp. 110-112, 114-115
15	The Problem of Evil		Chapter 7
16	Coherence of the Divine Attributes		
17	Religious Pluralism		Chapter 8
18	Religious Pluralism (cont.)		Chapter 9

19	Is God a Psychological Crutch? Isn't the Church Full of Hypocrites?		Chapters 5 & 10
20	Relationship of Theology & Science		
21	Open Theism		
22	Islam		
23	Islam (cont.) Pantheism		
24	Where Do We Go from Here?	pp. 299- 302	pp. 265-267

**Supplemental Reading List for Apologetics** (*Clicking the links below requires an Internet connection. The links will take you to an online store to purchase the texts.*)

Behe, Michael. [Darwin's Black Box](#). (Touchstone)

Blomberg, Craig. [The Historical Reliability of the Gospels](#). (IVP)

Bruce, F.F. [The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?](#) (IVP)

Corduan, Winfried. [No Doubt About It](#). (Broadman & Holman)

Cowan, Steven B., ed. [Five Views on Apologetics](#). (Zondervan)

Evans, C. Stephen. [Philosophy of Religion: Thinking about Faith](#). (IVP)

France, R.T. [The Evidence for Jesus](#). (IVP)

Geisler, Norman L. [Miracles and the Modern Mind](#). (Baker)

Geisler, Norman L. [The Roots of Evil](#). (Probe)

Geisler, Norman and William Watkins. [Worlds Apart: A Handbook on World Views](#). (Baker)

Geisler, Norman, ed. [Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics](#). (Baker)

Geisler, Norman and Thomas Howe. [When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties](#). (Victor)

Geivett, Douglas and Gary Habermas, eds. [In Defense of Miracles](#). (IVP)

Habermas, Gary R. [The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ](#). (College Press)

Johnson, Phillip E. [Darwin On Trial](#). (Regnery Gateway)

Moreland, J.P. [Scaling the Secular City: A Defense of Christianity](#). (Baker)

Moreland, J.P. and Kai Nielsen. [Does God Exist? The Great Debate](#). (Nelson)

Moreland, J.P., ed. [The Creation Hypothesis](#). (IVP)

Murray, Michael, ed. [Reason for the Hope Within](#). (Eerdmans)

Nash, Ronald H. [The Gospel and the Greeks](#). (Probe)

Nash, Ronald H. [Is Jesus the Only Savior?](#) (Zondervan)

Nash, Ronald H. [Christian Faith and Historical Understanding](#). (Zondervan)

Nash, Ronald H. [World Views in Conflict](#). (Zondervan)

Nicole, Roger and J.R. Michaels, eds. [Inerrancy and Common Sense](#). (Baker)

Pinnock, Clark. [Biblical Revelation](#). (P&R)

Plantinga, Alvin. *God, Freedom, and Evil..* (Eerdmans)  
Ratzsch, Del. *Philosophy of Science.* (IVP)  
Schaeffer, Francis. *Escape from Reason.* (IVP)  
Schaeffer, Francis. *He Is There and He Is not Silent.* (Tyndale)  
Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic World View Catalog.* (IVP)  
Sproul, R.C. *Reason to Believe.* (Zondervan)  
Sproul, R.C. *Lifetimes: Understanding the Ideas that Shape Society Today.* (Revell)  
Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ.* (Zondervan)  
Wilkins, Michael and J.P. Moreland, eds. *Jesus Under Fire.* (Zondervan)

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