

**Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650**

Fall 2010

**AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics
205.243.7912**

Phone:

Professor: Mr. Brandon Robbins

Class Hours: 2

E-mail address:

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COURSE PURPOSE

This course is a focused study of the defense of the Christian faith. Topics discussed will include apologetic methodology, arguments for God's existence, and responses to several major objections to the Christian faith.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Familiarize students with theological, philosophical, and apologetic vocabulary.
2. To provide a structure for understanding of different apologetic arguments.
3. To expose students to various objections to Christianity and how those objections may be answered.
4. To enable the student to more effectively defend the faith.
5. To prepare students to dialog with, criticize, and appropriate the best parts of various apologetic works into their system of thinking.
6. To deepen the students understanding of the Christian world and life view.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

Geisler, Norman. Meister, Chad. *Reasons for Faith: Making a Case for the Christian Faith*
ISBN-10: 1581347871

Richard Pratt, Jr. *Every Thought Captive* (P & R)
ISBN-10: 0875523528

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*. InterVarsity Press
ISBN-10: 0830838503

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignments on time.
3. Four 4-5 page papers. Topics will be discussed the first night of class.
4. Exams: There will be short answer Midterm and Final exams.

GRADING

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading and ability to participate in discussion 20%
3. Four short papers are worth 10% each for a total of 40% of grade
4. Midterm grade 20%
6. Final grade 20%

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

NOTE: 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.

All course materials must be submitted to the professor at the end of the semester (last day of class). Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six 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 week grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE

TOPIC

- Week 1 Introduction-What is Apologetics?
 Methods-Five Views on Apologetics
- Week 2 Basic overview: Categories of Arguments
- Week 3 Basic overview of Worldviews
- Week 4 Worldviews (Deism, Naturalism, Nihilism)
- Week 5 Worldviews (Existentialism, Pantheism, New Age)
- Week 6 Worldviews
(Postmodernism)
- Week 7 Arguments for God's Existence – Epistemological Arguments
- Week 8 Arguments for God's Existence – Metaphysical Arguments
- Week 9 Arguments for God's Existence – Existential Arguments
- Week 10 Arguments for God's Existence – Evidential Arguments
- Week 11 Review of Basic Objections to the Faith
- Week 12 The Role of Apologetics and the Evangelistic Life

