



The Orlando Institute

Equipping Leaders to Disciple the Nations

ST300

Dr. Steve Clinton

APOLOGETICS SYLLABUS

- I. Objectives: by the end of this class you will be able to
1. Define the terms and outline a system of basic apologetics
 2. Identify and discuss the five main approaches to world views
 3. Have a deeper commitment to the truths of the faith and be ready to explain them to people who have questions.
 4. Have researched one current topic in greater depth

II. Class sessions: four hours each (or may be divided)

1. Introduction to Apologetics/World Views
2. Systems of Apologetics and Strategies for Answering Questions
3. Evangelistic Issue: Jesus and the Bible
4. Inter-religious Issue: Other Gods
5. Modern Issue: Social Ethics

III. Textbook

Kreeft, P. & Tacelli, R. (1994). *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

IV. Assignments

1. Read any 100 pages of the textbook before the first class and write a report interacting with two topics of interest to you; do not summarize the content: respond to it. Due session two.
2. Memorize I Peter 3:15-16. Due session three.
Memorize I Corinthians 15:3-6. Due session five.
3. Engage five people in a conversation about the gospel: Jesus, spiritual life, salvation. After the dialogue, write down the main points that were discussed. Then write a report about what was said and what could be done differently next time to present and support the gospel. Do this for three of the five encounters. Due two weeks after the class is over.
4. Pick a topic in either philosophy or culture and write a ten page paper. Clear the topic and the primary sources with the instructor by session five. Turn in the paper four weeks after the class is over.

V. Grades

| <u>Item</u> | |
|--------------|-----------|
| assignment 1 | 20 |
| assignment 2 | 10 |
| assignment 3 | 20 |
| assignment 4 | 20 |
| Final Exam | <u>30</u> |
| Total | 100% |

VI. Bibliography

Contemporary Apologetics

- Clark, David. (1993). *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Colson, Charles. (1999). *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale.
- Craig, William. (1994). *Reasonable Faith*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.
- Dockery, David. Ed. (1997). *The Challenge of Post-Modernism*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- Granklin, R. W. & Shaw, J. M. (1991). *The Case for Christian Humanism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Guinness, Os & Seel, John. Eds. (1992). *No God but God: Breaking with the Idols of Our Age*. Chicago: Moody Press.
- Kreeft, P. & Tacelli, R. (1994). *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- McGrath, A. (1993). *Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Nash, Ronald. (1993). *Great Divides*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.
- Phillips, T. R. & Okholm, D. L. (1995). *Christian Apologetics in a Postmodern World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Sire, James. (1994). *Why Should Anyone Believe Anything At All?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Swinburn, Richard. (1996). *Is There A God?* NY: Oxford Press.

Classic Apologetics

- Buswell, J. O. Jr. (1960). *A Christian View of Being and Knowing*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Carnell, E. J. (1956). *An Introduction to Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Carnell, E. J. (1952). *A Philosophy of the Christian Religion*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Carnell, E. J. (1957). *Christian Commitment*. NY: Macmillan.
- Carson, D. & Woodbridge, J. (1993). *God and Culture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Dulles, Avery. (1971). *A History of Apologetics*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press.
- Geisler, Norman. (1988). *Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Guinness, Os. (1973). *The Dust of Death*. Downers Grove, IL: IVCF.
- Little, Paul. (1968). *Know Why You Believe*. Downers Grove, IL: IVCF.
- Holmes, Art. Ed. (1985). *The Making of a Christian Mind*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- MacGregor, G. (1973). *Philosophical Issues in Religious Thought*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
- McDowell, Josh. (1972). *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Orlando: Campus Crusade.
- Pinnock, Clark. (1967). *Set Forth Your Case*. Nutley, NJ: Craig.
- Schaeffer, Francis. (1968). *The God Who Is There*. Downers Grove, IL: IVCF.
- Smith, Wilbur. (1945). *Therefore Stand*. Grand Rapids: Baker.