

SYLLABUS

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, AL 35243
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Fall 2019

AP8623 Apologetics in the Church

Professor: Rev. Clete Hux

Class Hours: 2

Time: Mon. 7:30-9:30 PM

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Room: A209

COURSE PURPOSE

A study on how to integrate apologetics into the life of the church. Topics discussed will center on equipping church leaders to be apologists, the challenges of such a task, how the church should be the training ground for apologetics, recovering the priority of apologetics, and equipping all the Saints to be salt and light. This course will integrate apologetics and evangelism to achieve a more balanced approach in fulfilling the Great Commission. Finally, living apologetically will be the ultimate purpose of this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to understand the “real question behind the question” so as to use any encounter as an opportunity for the gospel.
2. The student will be able to nurture an apologetic lifestyle in others.
3. The student will be able to help parents equip their children at home for apologetics.
4. The student will be able to equip college age Christians to live apologetically on the campus.
5. Finally, the student, as a church leader, will be prepared to minister apologetically in a multicultural society with internationals.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:(Masters Degree)

Zacharias, Ravi and Norman Geisler. *Is Your Church Ready?* Zondervan, ISBN 0-310-25061-7

Samples, Kenneth Richard. *A World of Differences*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.

Powell, Doug. *Holman Quick source Guide to Christian Apologetics*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2006.

Required Texts:(Certificate)

Powell, Doug. *Holman Quick source Guide to Christian Apologetics*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2006.

Collateral Texts:(Masters Degree)

Boa, Kenneth D. and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.

Cabal, Ted (General Editor). *The Apologetics Study Bible*. Holman Bible Publishers. ISBN 978-1-58640-025-5

Beckwith, Francis J., William Lane Craig and J.P. Mooreland. *To Everyone An Answer*. InterVarsity Press. ISBN-978-0-8303-2735-0

Boa, Ken and Moody, Larry. *I'm Glad You Asked*. David C. Cook. ISBN-13: 978-1564763877

Collateral Texts:(Certificate)

Boa, Kenneth D. and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.

Boa, Ken and Moody, Larry. *I'm Glad You Asked*. David C. Cook. ISBN-13: 978-1564763877

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignment on time.
3. Verbatim: **(Masters Degree)** Apologetic/Evangelistic Encounters Verbatim. Each student will write two reports of an apologetic /evangelistic encounter on two different topics/issues (discussed in class) with any non-Christians or adherents of a different religion. Further instruction will be provided. **(Certificate)** Apologetic/Evangelistic Encounters Verbatim. Each student will write one report of an apologetic /evangelistic encounter on topic/issue (discussed in class) with any non-Christians or adherents of a different religion. Further instruction will be provided.

APOLOGETIC VERBATIMS GUIDELINES

A verbatim is an exact written report of an apologetic conversation. You should follow these guidelines.

- A. The conversation should be about apologetic topics, and they must be with people with whom you disagree about the topic under discussion. The apologetic portion of the conversation should be a minimum of 30 minutes in length. You may have some get-acquainted time at the beginning. This should be included in your

written report (unless it is unduly long--in which case it can be summarized), but you should not include the introductory part of the conversation in counting the 30 minutes of apologetic conversation.

B. The apologetic conversation should be more than an exchange of ideas. You should listen to your friend's ideas, but you should do more than listen. You should seek to defend your own views more than merely contrast your friend's views with yours. You should seek to defend your own position in some way so that your friend sees that you have reasons for your views. Or alternatively, you should seek to show your friend why you believe his or her view on some point is inadequate. But do not simply report your beliefs to each other; tactfully try to make some progress in reaching agreement on some issue or another.

C. Afterward, you are to report word-for-word, to the best of your ability, every line of conversation. Tape recorders are not allowed; this is also an exercise in careful listening and recollection. Your reports should be a minimum of 7 typed, double-spaced pages.

D. After you report the conversation, summarize your reactions in 3-4 pages. At a minimum, discuss (1) any strong points you made that seemed particularly helpful, (2) any puzzling questions you were unable to answer, (3) some indication of how your friend responded (including body language), and (4) your assessment of the conversation as a whole. It would be good to make some judgments about where you need more study as well as where specific areas you have studied seemed to be helpful.

*Adapted from David K. Clark, "How Should We Teach Apologetics?" Bulletin of the Evangelical Philosophical Society 12 (1989): 1-11

4. Book Critique:**(Master Requirement):** Completion of two papers 2 to 3 pages long. Each will be a book critique. Choose one of the collateral texts on the second page of this syllabus. The other book critique is to be *I'm Glad You Asked* by Ken Boa and Larry Moody, which is listed in the Selected Bibliography of this syllabus. **Certificate Requirement:** Completion of one paper 2 to 3 pages long. It will be a book critique on *I'm Glad You Asked* by Ken Boa and Larry Moody, which is listed in the Selected Bibliography of this syllabus.

Each critique should observe the following:

Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique.

Write a **brief summary** of the **main** theme and any **major secondary themes** of the author. I do not want a book review. I already know the content. Just give me enough to show you have read and digested the material.

Include your **analysis** of the arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon **how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scripture.**

Evaluate how they have either **succeeded or failed** in taking into account **all** of Scripture (in other words, is it a systematic argument or simply a use of some isolated proof texts?) **citing instances** from the book to support your evaluation.

Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.

Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally AND professionally** from reading this book.

5. Mid-term and/or final exam. A comprehensive exam (essay format) will be given at the end of the course.

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 10%
3. **Masters Degree Grading:** Two apologetic verbatim are worth 20% each for a total of 40%
Certificate Grading: One apologetic verbatim 40%
4. **Masters Degree Grading:** Two short papers on assigned book critiques 25%.
Certificate Grading: One apologetic verbatim 25%.
5. Final grade 25%

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

NOTE: All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page, citations and bibliography. Font Times New Roman in #12 Font Size and double spacing is required on all papers. **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) week 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 failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE for Masters Degree

September

Required Reading Schedule

9	Lesson 1	Course Syllabus & Introduction	
16	Lesson 2	Surveying the Landscape	handouts
23	Lesson 3	The Minister's Role	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 1 Powel: Chapters 1 & 2 Samples: Chapters 1 & 2
30	Lesson 4	Challenges and Obstacles	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 2 Powel: Chapters 3 & 4 Samples: Chapters 3 & 4

October

7	Lesson 5	On the Post-Modern Mindset	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 3 Powel: Chapters 5 & 6 Samples: Chapters 5 & 6
14		FALL BREAK (No Class) October 14-18	
21	Lesson 6	Preparing the Church to Handle the Basics	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 4 Powell: Chapter 7 Samples: Chapter 7
28	Lesson 7	Apologetics and Evangelism	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 5 Powell: Chapter 8 Samples: Chapter 8

November

4	Lesson 8	Choosing the Right Approach	handouts
11	Lesson 9	Making it clear	Powell: Chapters 9 & 10 Samples: Chapter 9 & 10
18	Lesson 10	Carrying the Message Home	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 6 Powell: Chapter 11 Samples: Chapters 11-12
25	Lesson 11	Keeping the Faith in College	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 7 Powell: Chapter 13

Samples: Chapter 13

December

2	Lesson 12 Lesson 13	Speaking the Language of Internationals Conclusion	Zacharias & Geisler: Chapter 8 Powell: Chapter 14 Samples: Chapters 15 & 16
9		Final Exam	

COURSE OUTLINE for Certificate

September

Required Reading Schedule

9	Lesson 1	Course Syllabus & Introduction	
16	Lesson 2	Surveying the Landscape	handouts
23	Lesson 3	The Minister's Role	Powell: Chapters 1 & 2
30	Lesson 4	Challenges and Obstacles	Powell: Chapters 3 & 4

October

7	Lesson 5	On the Post-Modern Mindset	Powell: Chapters 5 & 6
14		FALL BREAK (No Class) October 14-18	
21	Lesson 6	Preparing the Church to Handle the Basics	Powell: Chapter 7
28	Lesson 7	Apologetics and Evangelism	Powell: Chapter 8

November

4	Lesson 8	Choosing the Right Approach	handouts
11	Lesson 9	Making it clear	Powell: Chapters 9 & 10
18	Lesson 10	Carrying the Message Home	Powell: Chapter 11
25	Lesson 11	Keeping the Faith in College	Powell: Chapter 13

December

2	Lesson 12 Lesson 13	Speaking the Language of Internationals Conclusion	Powell: Chapter 14
9		Final Exam	

Bibliography

- Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000.
- Kuiper, R. B. *The Glorious Body of Christ*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1966.
- Licona, Michael R. *The Resurrection of Jesus*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Wilson, Douglas. *Mother Kirk*. Moscow: Canon Press, 2001.
- Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2007.
- Kennedy, D. James. *Evangelism Explosion 4th Edition*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1996.
- Vinning, Teresa Turner. *Making Your Faith Your Own*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Powell, Doug. *Holman Quick source Guide to Christian Apologetics*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2006.
- Geisler, Norman L. and Patrick Zukeran. *The Apologetics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.
- Geisler, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Colson, Charles and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999.
- McDowell, Josh. *A Ready Defense*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.
- Boa, Ken and Moody, Larry. *I'm Glad You Asked*. Colorado Springs: Victor Books, 2005.
- Sproul, R.C. Now, *That's a Good Question!* Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1996.
- Rhodes, Ron. *The Big Book of Bible Answers*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2013.
- Samples, Kenneth Richard. *A World of Differences*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Sweis, Khaldoun S. and Chad V. Meister. *Christian Apologetics, an Anthology of Primary Sources*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012
- Sproul, R. C. with John Gerstner and Arthur Lindsley. *Classical Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.