

SYLLABUS

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

Spring 2019

AP8532 Contemporary Cults (New Religious
Movements)

Professor: Rev. Clete Hux

Class Hours: 2

Time: Thursday 7:30-9:30 PM

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Email address: clete@arcapologetics.org

Room: A202

COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a theological and apologetic critique of new religious movements and Pseudo-Christian groups. This will include Latter-Day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, the New Age Movement, the Word-Faith Movement, Christian Science, the Baha'i faith, Unitarian Universalism, Scientology and others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to understand the doctrines of the major Pseudo-Christian religions.
2. The student will be able to discuss the biblical, theological, and philosophical weaknesses of the major Pseudo-Christian religions.
3. The student will be able to assess the psychological and sociological aspects of Pseudo-Christian religions.
4. The student will be able to dialogue both apologetically and evangelistically with proponents of Pseudo-Christian religions in a winsome way.
5. Finally, the student will be able to grasp a deeper understanding of knowing what it means to fulfill the Great Commission to people in such groups.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts (Masters Degree)

Martin, Walter and Ravi Zacharias. *Kingdom of the Cults*. Bethany House, 2003 ISBN-10: 0764228218

House, Wayne H. *Charts of Cults, Sects & Religious Movements*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000. ISBN-10: 0310385512

Required Text: (Certificate)

Martin, Walter and Ravi Zacharias. Kingdom of the Cults. Bethany House, 2003 ISBN-10: 0764228218

Collateral Texts: (Masters Degree)

Rhodes, Ron. *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*. Zondervan, 2001 ISBN-10: 0310232171

Scotland, Nigel. *The Baker Pocket Guide to New Religions*. Baker Books, 2006. ISBN-10: 0801066204

McDowell, Josh. compiled by Bill Wilson. *A Ready Defense*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002. ISBN-10: 0840744196

Collateral Texts: (Certificate)

Rhodes, Ron. *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*. Zondervan, 2001 ISBN-10: 0310232171

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

APOLOGETIC VERBATIMS GUIDELINES*

Masters Degree Requirement: You will be asked to do two apologetic verbatims: A verbatim is an exact written report of an apologetic conversation. You should follow these guidelines. **Certificate:** Required to do one verbatim.

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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. **Masters Degree 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 a book 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. Choose one of the collateral texts on the second page of this syllabus or a book listed in the Selected Bibliography of this syllabus.

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% of grade. **Certificate Grading:** One apologetic verbatim 40%
4. **Masters Degree Grading:** To short papers on assigned book critiques 25%
Certificate Grading: One apologetic verbatim 25%.
5. Final exam 25% of grade.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE **Reading Schedule for Masters Degree Students**

January		Lecture		Reading
23	Lesson 1	Course Syllabus & Introduction		
30	Lesson 2	Defining Cultism and New Religious Movements		<i>Kingdom of the Cults</i> (Martin & Zacharias) Ch.1-4
February				
6	Lesson 3	Latter-Day Saints	Part 1	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch.6
13	Lesson 4	Latter-Day Saints	Part 2	<i>Chart of Cults, Sects & Religious Movements</i> (Wayne House) Chapters 5 & 14
20	Lesson 5	Jehovah's Witnesses, the Trinity & Athanasian Creed Part 1		(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 5
27	Briarwood's Missions Conference Week – No Class			
March				
5	Lesson 6	Jehovah's Witnesses,	Part 2	(House), Ch. 3, 11, 19, Appendix A & B
12	Lesson 7	Mind Science Religions (Christian Science, Unity, Religions Science)		(Martin & Zacharias) Ch.7; (House), Ch. 12

19	Lesson 8	The New Age Movement	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 11&14; (House), Ch.2 & 13
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26	Lesson 9	The Word Faith Movement,	(Martin & Zacharias), Appendix B
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April

2	Lesson 10	United Pentecostalism	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 18 (House), Ch. 17
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9 **Easter Break – No Class**

16	Lesson 11	A Look at Baha’i Faith, Unitarianism	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 10 & 13, Appendix E
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23	Lesson 12	Scientology	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 17-20; Appendix A: WVCOG
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30 **Final/Apologetic Verbatims Due**

COURSE OUTLINE
Reading Schedule for Certificate Degree Students

January		Lecture	Reading
23	Lesson 1	Course Syllabus & Introduction	
30	Lesson 2	Defining Cultism and New Religious Movements	Kingdom of the Cults (Martin & Zacharias) Ch.1-4
February			
6	Lesson 3	Latter-Day Saints Part 1	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch.6
13	Lesson 4	Latter-Day Saints Part 2	Chart of Cults, Sects & Religious Movements (Wayne House) Chapters 5 & 14
20	Lesson 5	Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Trinity & Athanasian Creed Part 1	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch.5
27	Briarwood’s Missions Conference Week – No Class		

March

5	Lesson 6	Jehovah's Witnesses, Part 2	(House), Ch. 3, 11, 19, Appendix A & B
12	Lesson 7	Mind Science Religions (Christian Science, Unity, Religions Science)	(Martin & Zacharias) Ch.7; (House), Ch. 12
19	Lesson 8	The New Age Movement	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 11&14; (House), Ch.2 & 13
26	Lesson 9	The Word Faith Movement,	(Martin & Zacharias), Appendix B

April

2	Lesson 10	United Pentecostalism	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 18 (House), Ch. 17
9		Easter Week – No Class	
16	Lesson 11	A Look at Baha'i Faith, Unitarianism	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 10 & 13, Appendix E
23		Scientology	(Martin & Zacharias), Ch. 17-20; Appendix A: WVCOG
30		Final/Apologetic Verbatims Due	

Bibliography

Boa, Kenneth D., and Robert M. Bowman, Jr. *Faith Has Its Reasons*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001. ISBN-1-576831434

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978. ISBN-10: 0801037042

Geisler, Norman L. and Ron Rhodes. *When Cultists Ask*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997. ISBN-10: 801011493

Rhodes, Ron. and Marian Bodine. *Reasoning From the Scriptures with Mormons*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1995. ISBN-10: 1565073282

Rhodes, Ron. *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Jehovah's Witnesses*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House 2009. ISBN-10: 0736924515

McRoberts, Kerry D. *New Age or Old Lie?* Peabody, MA: Henderickson Publishers, 1989. ISBN-10: 0943575303

Mangalwadi, Vishal. *When the New Age Gets Old*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1992 ISBN-10: 0830817700

Bowman, Robert M. Jr. *The Word-Faith Controversy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001 ISBN-10: 0801063442

McKeever, Bill and Erick Johnson. *Mormonism 101*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000. ISBN-10: 0801063353

Geisler, Norman L. and Ron Rhodes. *Correcting the Cults*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Books, 2005. ISBN-10: 080106550X

Beverley, James A. *Religions A to Z*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005. ISBN-10: 1418505730

Enroth, Ronald. *Evangelizing the Cults*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1990. ISBN-10: 0892836717

Watson, William. *A Concise Dictionary of Cults and Religions*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1991. ISBN-10: 0802417264

Miller, Elliot. *A Crash Course on the New Age Movement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. ISBN-10: 0801062489

Boyd, Gregory A. *Oneness Pentecostals and the Trinity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992. ISBN-10: 0801010195

Tucker, Ruth A. *Another Gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing Company, 1989. ISBN-10: 0310404401

Hexham, Irving. *Pocket Dictionary of New Religious Movements*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2002. ISBN-10: 0830814663

Enroth, Ronald M., and J. Gordon Melton. *Why Cults Succeed Where the Church Fails*. Elgin, IL: Brethern Press, 1985. ISBN-10: 0871789329

Walker, James K. *The Concise Guide to Today's Religions and Spirituality*. Eugene, Or: Harvest House, 2007. ISBN-10: 0736920110