



APOLOGETICS

ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- **Week** - The week of school
- **Topic** - The topic of the week

FULL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Apologetics Class Schedule	
Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Apologetics
2	Atheism/Pantheism/Panentheism
3	Deism/Theism/Ontological Argument
4	Theism/Cosmological, Moral, and Teleological Arguments
5	Theism/Fideism/Transcendental Argument/Reformed Epistemology
6	Apologetics Verbal Testing - Section 1
7	Apologetics Verbal Testing - Section 2
8	Apologetics Verbal Testing - Section 3
9	Apologetics Verbal Testing - Section 4
	END OF QUARTER
10	Historical Apologetics Topic 1 - Jewish Messianic Expectations
11	Historical Apologetics Topic 2 - Jesus' Existence
12	Historical Apologetics Topic 3 - The Jesus of Scripture
13	Historical Apologetics Topic 4 - Oral Tradition
14	Historical Apologetics Topic 5-6 - The Physical Resurrection and Textual Corruption
15	Historical Apologetics Topic 7-8 - Secular Testimony and the Creeds
16	Historical Apologetics Topic 9 and 10 - Paul's Influence and Historical Theology
17	Finish Historical Apologetics
18	FINALS

SEMESTER 1 MAJOR GRADES

- Personal Apologetics Paper
- Theistic Apologetics Verbal Testing
- Historical Apologetics Verbal Testing

APOLOGETICS VERBAL TESTING

Proving the Existence of God

What is the assignment?

1. Work in groups in preparation of the verbal exam
2. Participate in the verbal exam

What will I be “proving”?

- You will be demonstrating the probability of God’s existence

What topics will I need to be familiar with?

- The various arguments for God’s existence

How will I be graded?

1. Major Grades
 - a. Students will participate in four verbal exams as a group, exploring their mastery of the various arguments for God’s existence, and arguments against Atheism and Deism.
 - b. Each group will receive a base grade, and individual’s grades will be altered based upon performance, preparation, and participation in the exams.

How will I learn all of this stuff?

- The teacher will guide class discussion in order to teach the students the necessary material as well as train the students on how to prepare for future verbal exams.
- Groups are encouraged to direct the teacher to aid in their learning process by requesting that the teacher:
 - Lecture on specified topics on specified class days.
 - Help in the acquisition of useful resources (books, webpages, videos, etc).
 - Help coordinate lectures/training led by Advanced Apologetics students or other teachers/professors.

APOLOGETICS VERBAL TESTING TOPICS

Proving God's Existence Topics

1. Ontological Argument

- Anselm
- Descartes
- Malcolm

2. Cosmological Argument

- Aquinas' first three ways
- Kalaam
- Leibniz
- Modern Science (Big Bang Cosmology)

3. Teleological Argument

- Aquinas' fifth way
- Patterns
- Anthropic Principle

4. Moral Argument

- Aquinas' fourth way
- Modern Moral Argument

5. Transcendental Argument

- Augustine
- Van Til

6. Reformed Epistemology

- Plantinga

7. Atheistic Arguments

- Omni Contradictions
- Sartre
- Russell
- Burden of Proof

8. Deistic Arguments

- Problem of Miracles
- Divine Watchmaker

HISTORICAL APOLOGETICS VERBAL TESTING

Proving the Resurrection/Plausibility of Christianity

What is the assignment?

1. Work in groups in preparation of the verbal exam
2. Participate in the verbal exam

What will I be “proving”?

- You will be demonstrating the plausibility of the resurrection of Christ
- You will be demonstrating the plausibility of the historical religion known as Christianity

How will I be graded?

1. Minor Grades
 - a. Each group will be graded as a group every week during the preparation period. On Monday, the group will submit a list of topics they will focus on for the week (the list can be updated throughout the week) for approval. At the end of the week, the group will be verbally tested in order to assess progress/deficiencies. During this testing, the entire group will participate as one unit.
 - b. The groups will be chosen by the teacher.
1. Major Grades
 - a. Students will participate in four verbal exams as a group, exploring their mastery of the various arguments for God’s existence, and arguments against Atheism and Deism.
 - b. Each group will receive a base grade, and individual’s grades will be altered based upon performance, preparation, and participation in the exams.

How will I learn all of this stuff?

- Groups are to direct their research on each of the topics, using a variety of available resources, in order to best prepare for the verbal testing.
- Groups are encouraged to direct the teacher to aid in their learning process by requesting that the teacher:
 - Lecture on specified topics on specified class days.
 - Help in the acquisition of useful resources (books, webpages, videos, etc).
 - Help coordinate lectures/training led by Advanced Apologetics students or other teachers/professors.

HISTORICAL APOLOGETICS VERBAL TESTING TOPICS:

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Resurrection/Christian Plausibility Questions

1. What were the Jews expecting and how did Jesus somehow make sense of that?

- Resurrection
- New creation
- Life after death
- Kingdom of God
- Eschatology; apocalyptic (Role/Expectation of the Temple)
- Messiah (What does it mean?)
- Prophecy
- God and Man - Greek idea?
- How much Hellenization In Christianity?
- Overthrow of Rome?
- Peace on earth?
- End of exile mentality?

2. Did Jesus really exist?

- It was a legend made up years later
- It was created as a future hope/spiritual/political reawakening (metaphorical)
- It was simply a good story (fiction)

3. Did Jesus really do what is written about him in the Gospels (not miracles)

- Disciples made it up
- Paul made it up - Took a political figure and made him into a spiritual leader
- Jesus' actions were sensationalized

4. Was the oral tradition corrupted before the text was written?

- Was the ancient methodology of oral traditions even a valid way of knowledge transmission?
- Even if the methodology is valid, why would uneducated and poor disciples be able to successfully employ it?
- Were the correct texts chosen based upon the oral tradition (Gnostic Gospels, etc)?
- Was the information written in the texts simply written incorrectly?

5. Did the Disciples and Apostles actually believe Jesus raised from the dead physically?

- Are we as Americans reading the texts correctly?
- Is the culture/language of the day so lost to us that there is no hope of correctly discerning intentions/beliefs?
- Could it have been a "spiritual resurrection"?

6. Was the text corrupted after being written down (between the time of original creation and Canonization)?

- Does the text line up with the early Church?
- Did the scribes infuse their own meaning/language in the text?

HISTORICAL APOLOGETICS VERBAL TESTING TOPICS:

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7. Did contemporary secular sources support what is written in the texts?

- Josephus
- Roman Authorities
- Other Historians and Officials
- Geographic/Archeological Support

8. Do the Creeds represent authentic Christianity or do they represent a corruption of the actual historical Jesus?

- Trinity
- Deity/Humanity of Christ
- Baptism
- The Atonement

9. Is it necessary to believe the historical theology in order to be a Christian"?

- Deity/Humanity of Christ
- Trinity
- Atonement of sin (Salvation and why does it matter?)
- The fall of humanity
- Baptism
- Lord's Supper
- Resurrection of the dead (Heaven/Hell)

10. What about the Influence of Paul?

- Who was Paul and why was he relevant?
- Did Paul invent Christianity?
- Did Paul change Jesus and the Church into what he wanted?