

Honors Apologetics Syllabus

Description

This course is intended to be an advanced course for seniors at FBCA, replacing the current 12th grade Apologetics curriculum. Students will be given an opportunity to further comprehension and mastery in the areas of Biblical rhetoric, epistemology, metaphysics, apologetics, Church history, and modern Christian ministry.

Class Website

www.kingdomapologetics.com

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Organization

This class will operate in a somewhat different manner than many other classes. The primary teaching methods will center upon a mentoring approach to learning in which the teacher will help guide students as they begin to take an active role in their own education.

Methodology

The teacher will employ the following methods of instruction in order to accomplish the goals of this course:

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1. *Lecture* - Some lessons will include the basic lecturing format in order to convey vital information to the students in order to ensure their readiness for the assigned material.
2. *Discussion* - Much of class time will be devoted to a round-table style discussion in which the teacher will guide the students' learning by employing the socratic method and other targeted pedagogical methodologies.
3. *Outside Reading* - Students will be required to complete reading assignments from Scripture, their textbook, as well as supplemental texts, as directed by the teacher. These readings will help facilitate the class discussions, as well as provide a rich learning experience outside of class.
4. *Thesis* - Students will be required to complete one thesis on the apologetic topic of their choosing, as approved by the teacher. Papers are to be at least 35 pages in length and must include the appropriate primary and secondary sources for their particular topics. Each student will defend his/her thesis for the final exam. The purposes of this requirement are to develop the student's rhetorical verbal and written abilities, as well as assist the student in acquiring essential knowledge in their chosen fields of study.

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Grading

This class will follow the FBCA Handbook's policy regarding grades.

Major assignments will be worth 70% of the student's total grade.

Minor assignments will be worth 30% of the student's total grade.

Each quarter will be worth 40% of the semester grade.

The Final Exam will be worth 20% of the semester grade.

Major grades will include presentations and assigned papers

Minor grades will include daily participation and assorted assignments

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Texts

The Bible (Primary Text)

Christian Apologetics by Norman Geisler (Primary Text)

Jesus and the Victory of God by N.T. Wright

New Testament and the People of God by N.T. Wright

Readings in Christianity edited by Robert E. Van Voorst

Truth is Stranger than it Used to Be by Middleton and Walsh

Fear and Trembling by Soren Kierkegaard

Contemporary Perspectives on Religious Epistemology by Geivett and Sweetman

The Story of Christian Theology by Roger Olsen

Free Church and the Early Church by D. H. Williams

Course Outline

Part 1 - Epistemology and Theological Foundations

- A. Atheism
 - A. Flew, Nielson, Russell, Sartre, Rowe
- B. Agnosticism
 - A. Kant, Hume
- C. Deism
 - A. Herbert of Cherbury, Tindal, Hume, Kant
- D. Pantheism/Panentheism
 - A. Parmenides, Zeno, Spinoza
- E. Biblical, Personal Theism
 - A. Paul, Anselm, Aquinas, Descartes, Malcolm, Kalam, Leibniz, Ross, Paley, Anthropic Principle, Lewis, Plantinga, Van Till

Part 2 - The Resurrection of Jesus and Testimony of the Church and Scripture

- A. The Historicity of the Canon of Scripture
 - A. The OT, The NT, Geisler, Craig, Williams
- B. The Profile of a Prophet in 1st Century Judaism
 - A. The Praxis of a Biblical Prophet

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- B. The Role of the Kingdom of God
- C. The Stories of the Kingdom of God
- D. The Symbols, Questions, and Controversy of the Kingdom of God
- C. The Jewish and Christian Worldviews in First Century Palestine
 - A. Wright, Bloomberg
- D. The Aims and Beliefs of Jesus
 - A. The Messianic Expectation
 - B. Reasons For Jesus' Crucifixion
 - C. The Resurrection of Christ
- E. Historicity of the Resurrection
 - A. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Paul, Wright, Craig, Bloomberg, Pliny the Younger, Josephus, Tacitus
- F. Church Fathers and the Oral Tradition
 - A. Polycarp, Irenaeus, Hermas, Didache, Clement, Athanasius
- G. Contra Heresies
 - A. Irenaeus, Gnosticism, Various Heresies
- H. Councils and Creeds
 - A. Apostles Creed, Niceno-Constantinople Creed, Nicene, Ephesus, Constantinople, Chalcedon

FBCA Department of Theology and Philosophy Mission Statement

The Department of Theology and Philosophy at Fort Bend Christian exists to be a tool used by the Holy Spirit to help each student become a disciple of Jesus Christ. In order to accomplish this task, we create an environment that aids the student to develop a dynamic relationship with Christ that is fueled by a growing knowledge of Scripture, a study of the history of the faith, growth in critical thinking, and a passion to become a servant-leader who seeks to disciple others and change the culture.