

## Syllabus Catholic Apologetics

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“but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who call you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; 1 Peter 3:15

defense - (απολογία Gk.)

**665** ἀπολογία (*apologia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 627—**1.** LN 33.435 **defend oneself**, make a formal justification (Ac 25:16; 2Co 7:11; Php 1:7, 16; 2Ti 4:16; 1Pe 3:15+); **2.** LN 33.436 **defense**, the content of the answer or reply (Ac 22:1; 1Co 9:3), note: these verses and entries may overlap

James Swanson, [\*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)\*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Apologetics then is the science concerned with the defence of the Catholic religion. Its aim/goal/final cause is to prove from reason the divine authority of the Catholic Church. So the question becomes how do we do this or how is this done?

This course then will be the study of Christian doctrine with the focus on being able to answer objections to the faith that you possess.

### Course Outline:

Texts: Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine, Archbishop Michael Sheehan  
Unabridged Christianity, Fr. Mario Romero  
Summa Theologiae, St. Thomas Aquinas ([newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org))  
Vatican I Decrees ([vatican.va](http://vatican.va))  
Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd edition, pub. 1990)

## I. The Existence of God:

A. The five proofs of St. Thomas Aquinas:  
Summa Theologiae PartI.q2.a1.,2.,3.

B. Vatican I Ecumenical Council,  
Session 3, 24 April 1870, Dogmatic Constitution on the Catholic Faith

## II. The Human Soul:

### A. The Soul of Man is Spiritual

1. This is the form of the person
2. The operations of the soul
3. Do all living things have a soul?

## III. Divine Revelation:

### A. Why did God reveal Himself to Man?

### B. How did God reveal Himself to Man

1. Miracles and Prophecy
2. Ultimately in the Person of Jesus Christ

### C. The Gospels:

1. The Genre of the Gospels
2. Are the Gospels reliable historical documents?
  - a. Who are the authors?
  - b. When were they written?
  - c. Why were they written?