

# Apologetics

CRU – *Institute of Biblical Studies*

January 28 - February 1, 2019

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Hamm, PhD

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## Course Description

This course will equip you to confidently and winsomely respond to common objections to the Christian faith, identify and appropriately challenge the worldviews from which they arise, and better understand how cultural contexts shape unbelief. Topics we will explore include the existence and nature of God, the relationship between science and Christianity, miracles, the problem of evil and hell, the trustworthiness of the Bible, the historicity of the resurrection.

## Course Objectives

1. To grow in our understanding of and obedience to God's command that we love Him with our whole selves including our minds.
2. To understand the nature and role of apologetics in evangelistic and discipling conversations.
3. To acquire skill in identifying and challenging the presuppositions underlying various objections to the Christian faith.
4. To learn how to make effective use of questions to further evangelistic and apologetic conversations.
5. To become better equipped to articulate a thoughtful case for Christianity.

## Required Texts

Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay?* Epsom, Surrey, U.K. The Good Book Company, 2013.  
(ISBN: 9781908762313)

Hamm, Jeffery L. *Turning the Tables on Apologetics: Helmut Thielicke's Reformation of Christian Conversation.* Eugene: Pickwick, 2018.

Guinness, Os. *Fool's Talk: Recovering the Art of Christian Persuasion.* Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2015.15-256.

Wilson, Douglas. *Persuasions: A Dream of Reason Meeting Unbelief.* Moscow: Canon, 1989.

## Course Requirements

1. **Reading:** You are to master the content of the assigned text chapters and articles. You must read all of the assigned reading. You will submit a report indicating the percentage of assigned reading you completed on the final day of the course.
2. **Worksheets:** You will complete 7 apologetic worksheets that will give you the opportunity to apply what you have learned in the readings. You will be given a specific situation and then asked to formulate a thoughtful response drawing on the readings and your own previous experience. Your responses may include questions you might ask, issues upon which you would focus, etc.
3. **Project:** The purpose of this course is to help you become more effective in the use of apologetics in the context of evangelism and follow up. During the course you will have the opportunity to develop a tool for use in your personal ministry. You have two options from which to choose:
  - a) **Apologetic article:** The article should be targeted to your ministry audience (professors, college students, high school students, athletes). It should identify a specific objection to the Christian faith (e.g. problem of evil, religious pluralism, fate of the unevangelized, etc.) and present a carefully crafted and well-reasoned response. It is *not* a research paper. Your grade will be based on (1) evidence of a good understanding of the nature of the problem and how it challenges belief in Christian theism, (2) a well-reasoned response to this problem, and (3) proper packaging (targeted toward an audience, good introduction and conclusion). The article should be 5 to 8 pages in length. The article should be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point type.
  - b) **Apologetic talk:** The talk should contain about 30 minutes of content (about 4-5 pages of notes) and must interact with one apologetic issue. The talk should be targeted to your audience (college students, high school students, athletes, etc). It must identify a specific objection to the Christian faith and present a carefully crafted and well-reasoned response. You will turn in a *detailed* outline (typed) of the talk. "Detailed" means a clear statement of *every* thought/idea you intend to communicate. Your introduction, conclusion, and illustrations must be word for word. Even your outline points should be expressed in complete sentences. Your grade will be based on (1) evidence of a good understanding of the nature of the problem you discuss and how it challenges belief in Christian theism, (2) a well-reasoned response to this problem, (3) creativity in presentation, and (4) proper elements of a good talk (captivating introduction, good illustrations, several key points, and a conclusion). Your notes should be double-spaced and no smaller than 12-point type.

## Reading Assignments:

Date	Topic	Assignment
Monday 1/28 Morning	<i>Intro to / History of Apologetics</i> <i>Philosophical Proofs</i> <i>Scientific Apologetics</i>	Hamm; Introduction, xii-xix Conclusion, 210-214 Ch. 3, 60-89 Guinness; Intro., 15-19 Ch. 1, 21-28,
Monday 1/28 Afternoon	<i>Anatomy/Theology of Unbelief</i>	Hamm; Ch. 2, 34-59 Guinness; Ch. 5, 79-105
Tuesday, 1/29 Morning	<i>An Apologetic of the Cross; General Revelation, Miracles, Resurrection Appearances, Role of Evidence</i>	Hamm; Ch. 4, 90-126
Tuesday 1/29 Afternoon	<i>An Apologetic of the Cross; General Revelation, Miracles, Resurrection Appearances, Role of Evidence</i>	Guinness; Chs. 2-4, 29-78
Wed. 1/30 Morning	<i>Christ's Counter-Question / Table-Turning Method</i>	Hamm; Ch. 5, 127-144; 153-172
Wed. 1/30 Afternoon	<i>Christ's Counter-Question / Table-Turning Method</i>	Guinness, Ch. 6, 107-129 Ch. 8, 149-167
Thursday 1/31 Morning	<i>The Problem of Evil</i>	
Thursday 1/31 Afternoon	<i>Evolution, Atheism</i>	
Friday 2/1 Morning	<i>Review examples of counter-question/table-turning conversations</i>	Wilson, <i>Persuasions</i> (7-87)
Friday 2/1	<i>God and Sexuality (LGBTQ)</i>	Allberry, entire book

## Page Totals: 431

Hamm- 137

Guinness - 126

Allberry- 88

Wilson- 80

## Course Grade

Your course grade will be based on the following (all due at the end of Friday, 1/11):

Reading Report	30%
Worksheets	30%
Final Project	40%

## Grading Scale

94-100	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
84-89	B
82-83	B-
80-81	C+
74-79	C
72-73	C-
65-71	D
0-65	F

## Bring This Report With You on Friday 1/11

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Monday 1/28 Morning	<i>Intro to / History of Apologetics</i> <i>Philosophical Proofs</i> <i>Scientific Apologetics</i>	Hamm; Introduction, xii-xix Conclusion, 210-214 Ch. 3, 60-89 Guinness; Intro., 15-19 Ch. 1, 21-28,
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Thursday 1/31 Morning	<i>The Problem of Evil</i> 2/1	
Thursday 1/31 Afternoon	<i>Evolution, Atheism</i>	
Friday 2/1 Morning	<i>Review examples of counter-question/table-turning conversations</i>	Wilson, <i>Persuasions</i> (7-87)
Friday 2/1	<i>God and Sexuality (LGBTQ)</i>	Allberry, entire book

I completed \_\_\_\_\_ % of the required readings

Signature \_\_\_\_\_