

THCM3330 Christian Apologetics
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
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Leavell College – South Florida Center
First Baptist Church Hialeah
631 East 1 Ave.
Hialeah, FL 33010
David A. Escobar Arcay Ph.D.
Spring 2013 Mondays 8:00pm-10:00pm

Office/Room 1

Office Hours
Mondays 6:45-7:45pm

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the field of Christian Apologetics. The course will focus upon major issues within the field. Attention will also be given to different apologetic methodologies.

Student Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. identify and define major themes within the field of Apologetics
2. differentiate biblical doctrine and traditional orthodoxy from deviant concepts
3. articulate and defend traditional orthodox positions

Required Textbooks

- James Davidson Hunter, *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*. (Oxford University Press, 2010).
- Louis Markos, *Apologetics for the Twenty-first Century*. (Crossway, 2010)
- James K.A. Smith, *Letters to a Young Calvinist: An Invitation to the Reformed Tradition*. (Brazos Press, 2010).
- The Holy Bible in any of the following translations: KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV.
Note: The NIV may be used, but not as the sole biblical text.

Suggested Textbooks

- Allister McGrath, *Heresy: A History of Defending The Truth*. (HarperOne, 2009).
- Allister E. McGrath, *Theology: The Basics* (Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2004).

Course Methodology

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, Power Point presentations, audio-visual presentations, and group activities.

Course Requirements

1. **Class Attendance/ Participation**—Students are required to attend and participate in all class sessions for the entire meeting times. The instructor will carefully monitor the in-class participation of each student and this will factor into the student's final grade. This will include mandatory discussion groups where students will be graded on their participation and leader summaries.

2. Assigned Readings- Some of the reading material is covered in class. However, there are elements that will not be brought out in class but are still essential to gaining an understanding of the material and successfully completing the course. Therefore, the reading provides a rich and necessary component of the learning experience.

a) Textbook Reading- The students will be responsible for reading the textbooks and the particular assigned sections of the course textbooks adopted.

b) Reading Handouts- Students are also responsible for reading all handouts and essays passed out in class by the instructor. There will be some topics not fully discussed in the textbooks. Students are to indicate if they have completed the reading assignments for the course by attaching a statement to the final projects to be turned in for the course.

3. Book Reviews #1 & #2—Each student is to write a book review for each of the following books. This is a 5-page paper that includes three parts: summary, reflection and connection to ministry. The two books to be reviewed are the following:

- ✓ **Book Reviews #1** Theology: The Basics by Allister E. McGrath
- ✓ **Book Reviews #2** *Letters to a Young Calvinist: An Invitation to the Reformed Tradition* by James K.A. Smith

4. Mid-Term Exam—Each student will be responsible for a take home mid-term exam. It will be either a written exam or a multiple-choice exam.

5. Final Exam—Each student will be responsible for a take home final exam. It will be either a written exam or a multiple-choice exam.

6. Online Report/Research Report—Each student will be required to do research by either online or by interview on a theme/issue provided in class i.e. open theism, the new atheism etc.

Course Grading

Discipline is an important part of all aspects of life whether spiritual, physical, or mental. The course is designed in such a way that faithfulness and diligence on your part will be rewarded. The student's grade will be determined as follows:

Required Readings/Attendance/Participation 10%

Book Review #1 15%

Book Review #2 15%

Mid-Term Exam 30%

Final Exam 30%

The following letter grades and their achievement equivalents are used by the instructor to reflect a student's performance in the course:

Grading Scale

The NOBTS grading scale (pg. 66 undergraduate college catalog) for the undergraduate programs is as follows:

A - 93-100

- B - 85-92
- C - 77-84
- D - 70-76
- F - Below 70

Grading Rubric: After all the requirements of the course have been completed, the instructor will use the following rubric for the assignment of grades, based on the overall performance of the class. The grades assigned will represent the instructor's interpretation of the following standard:

A = Outstanding mastery of the subject: excellence is evident in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; unusual ability to retain, analyze and synthesize the material; with a positive attitude making productive contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

B = Superior mastery of the subject: sincere effort in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; ability to master the essential aspects of the material; with a mostly consistent attitude in making contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

C = Basic mastery of the subject: inconsistent effort in preparation for and attendance in class sessions; engagement with the material but difficulty in grasping some of its aspects; with occasional contributions to the learning community in the classroom.

D = Inadequate mastery of the subject.

F = Failure: course must be repeated.

Warning on Plagiarism: Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagarism.html>. This document provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare for your assignments. If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student will receive the consequences of this act according to the process established by the seminary.

Intellectual Property Rights: To protect the professor's intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

Internet Usage: Students are asked to refrain from accessing the Internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. "Surfing the web," checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Reading By Texts	Reading By Chapters	Activity/Requirements
1	January 28	<i>Intro., syllabus</i>		
2	February 4	Markos	1, 2	Online Report/Research

				Visit
3	February 11	Markos	3, 4	Online Report/Research Visit
4	February 18	Markos	5, 6	Online Report/Research Visit
5	February 25	Markos	7, 8	Online Report/Research Visit
6	March 4	Markos	9, 10	Online Report/Research Visit
7	March 11	Markos	11, 12	<i>BOOK REVIEW #1</i> <i>Theology: The Basics</i> by Allister E. McGrath
8	March 18	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
9	March 25	Markos	13, 14, 15	
10	April 1	MID-TERM EXAM	MID-TERM EXAM	MID-TERM EXAM
11	April 8	Markos	17, 18	
12	April 15	Markos	19, 20	Online Report/Research Visit
13	April 22	Markos	21-24	Online Report/Research Visit
14	April 29	Davidson McGrath	Davidson Essay I McGrath 1-4	BOOK REVIEW #2 <i>Letters to a Young Calvinist: An Invitation to the Reformed Tradition</i> by James K.A. Smith
15	May 6	Davidson Essays II-III McGrath	Davidson Essays II-III McGrath 5-8	Online Report/Research Visit
16	May 13	FINAL EXAMINATION	FINAL EXAMINATION	FINAL EXAMINATION

Spring 2013 Important Semester Calendar Dates

January 22, 2013 First day of class
 March 18 -22, 2013 Spring Break

Exam week

Thursday Class May 9, 2013
 Monday Class May 13, 2013
 Tuesday Class May 14, 2013

Recommended Bibliography

Boyd, Gregory. *Letters from a Skeptic*. Colorado: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1994.

_____. *The God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 2000.

- Erickson, Millard J. *Truth or Consequences: The Promise and Perils of Postmodernism*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Ferguson, Sinclair, David Wright, and J. I. Packer, eds. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- Fudge, Edward and Robert Peterson. *Two Views of Hell*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- McGrath, Alister. *A Passion for Truth: The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Peterson, Robert A. *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment*. New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 1995.
- Romanowski, William D. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2001.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *Art and the Bible*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1973.
- _____. *Trilogy: The Three Essential Books of Francis Schaeffer*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1990.
- Schreiner, Thomas and Bruce Ware, eds. *Still Sovereign*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2000.
- Sire, James. *Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life as a Christian Calling*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Stott, John. *Human Rights and Human Wrongs: Major Issues for a New Century*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.
- _____. *Our Social and Sexual Revolution: Major Issues for a New Century*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.
- Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas: Understanding the Concepts that Shaped Our World*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2000.