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## **APO401 Apologetics Syllabus Highlights**

*In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*”  
—1 Peter 3:15

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### **Course Description**

A survey of the biblical foundations and mandate for apologetics, as well as the history of Christian apologetics from the early church to the present day. This course includes the study of the major apologetic methodologies such as classical apologetics, evidentialism, and presuppositionalism.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Recall significant people, writings, places, events, and movements in the history of apologetics from the early church to the present.
2. Explain key modern apologetic methodologies and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.
3. Respond to non-Christian objections from Islam, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, atheists, etc.
4. Contend for the faith with gentleness and respect in dialogue with an unbeliever.

### **Textbooks**

1. The Holy Bible, in any translation.
2. Calvin, John, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008). ISBN: 978-1598561685
3. Fesko, J. V., *Reforming Apologetics: Retrieving the Classic Reformed Approach to Defending the Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019). ISBN: 978-0801098901
4. Mathison, Keith A., *Toward a Reformed Apologetics: A Critique of the Thought of Cornelius Van Til* (Fearn, Scotland: Mentor, 2024). ISBN: 978-1527112292
5. Sproul, R. C., *Defending Your Faith: An Introduction to Apologetics* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003). ISBN: 978-1433563782
6. Sproul, R. C., *Making a Difference: Impacting Culture and Society as a Christian*, Repackaged edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2019). ISBN: 978-0801077845
7. Additional PDF readings will be assigned and posted under “Files” on the course Canvas page. See reading schedule below.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade).
2. Reading (20% of final grade).
3. Apologetics Conversation and Paper (20% of final grade).
4. Gospel of John Handout (10% of final grade).
5. Midterm (20% of final grade).
6. Final Exam (20% of final grade).

\*This abbreviated syllabus is subject to revision. A full syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.