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## **APO401 Apologetics Syllabus Highlights**

*...I am put here for the defense of the gospel.*  
—Philippians 1:16b

Fall 2024  
Dr. Stephen J. Nichols

### **Course Description**

This course offers a rational defense of the Christian faith, specifically contending that God exists, that God's Word is unique and reliable, and that Christ alone is the hope of salvation. The course also responds to objections from such views as Islam, pluralism, and secularism.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The primary outcome is to know and be equipped to proclaim, defend, and contend for the gospel. This includes:

1. Studying the biblical mandate for and teaching on apologetics.
2. Knowing the gospel.
3. Understanding the different views of apologetics.
4. Defending the existence of God, authority of Scripture, and exclusivity of Christ.
5. Answering the common objections and key contenders to the faith today.
6. Putting your confidence in God and the gospel.

### **Textbooks**

1. I Peter.
2. Leszek Kolakowski, *Why Is There Something Rather than Nothing?* (Basic Books, 2007).
3. Stephen J. Nichols, *A Student's Guide to Apologetics* (Christian Focus Publications, 2023).
4. Nabeel Qureshi, *No God but One: Allah or Jesus?* (Zondervan, 2016).
5. R.C. Sproul, *Defending Your Faith* (Crossway, 2003).
6. R.C. Sproul, *Faith Alone* (Baker Books, 2017).
7. R.C. Sproul, *Making a Difference* (Baker Books, 2019).

### **Course Requirements**

1. Attend and participate in class and complete all assigned reading.
2. Write a 300-word essay on: What is the gospel?
3. Write a 1,500-word essay on: Does God exist?
4. Write a 1,500-word essay on one topic in Islam.
5. Write a 1,500-word essay on: Is Jesus Christ the only way of salvation?
6. Complete a final exam.

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