



APO401 Apologetics Syllabus Highlights

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

Fall 2021
Dr. Stephen J. Nichols

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. Includes the study of the major apologetic methodologies such as classical apologetics, evidentialism, and presuppositionalism.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Learn the biblical mandate for and teaching on apologetics.
2. Understand the unique emphases and grasp the key differences between apologetics views.
3. Know how to defend the existence of God, authority of Scripture, and exclusivity of Christ.
4. Know how to respond to the common objections and key contenders to the faith today, including Islam, secularism, and pluralism.
5. Learn to put your confidence in God and the gospel.

Textbooks

1. I Peter
2. The Gospel of John
3. Leszek Kolakowski, *Why Is There Something Rather Than Nothing?* (Basic Books, 2007).
4. Nabeel Qureshi, *No God but One: Allah or Jesus?* (Zondervan, 2016).
5. R.C. Sproul, *Defending Your Faith: An Introduction to Apologetics* (Crossway, 2003).
6. R.C. Sproul, *Making a Difference: Impacting Culture and Society as a Christian* (Baker Books, 2019).
7. R.C. Sproul, *Faith Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine of Justification* (Baker, 1995).

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. The Gospel of John challenge: Find one person to give a Gospel of John during the class.
7. Complete a final exam.

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