ST530: Apologetics. 2 hours

Time & Place: Mondays, 10:00 AM – 11:55 AM; Jan 27 – May 2; DC 2

Spring, 2014

Contact Information
Prof.: Bruce Baugus    Office Phone: 601-923-1696 (x696)
Office: DC            Email: bbaugus@rts.edu
Office Hours: whenever I am not in class, M-Th (door will be open)

TA: Derek Moore

Catalog Course Description
Students examine the various approaches to apologetic methodology and engage the most frequently raised objections to the Christian faith.

Explanation
The purpose of this class is to help students (1) understand the role apologetics plays in the life and work of the ministry, (2) develop an effective apologetic method grounded in Scripture and consistent with Reformed orthodoxy; and (3) identify and engage various common challenges, objections to, and attacks upon Christian faith on the contemporary scene.

Textbooks (Required)

Assignments
Attend all lectures; participate constructively in class discussions, and complete the readings listed on the course schedule (see schedule). Accountability will consist of the following:

Course Grade
Two Written Exams 25% each; 50% total
Dialogue 10%
Oral Exam 40%    Demonstrating effective application of class content in ministry context
Total 100%

Written Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, list, identify, and similar types of questions. Any written, short-answer type questions will be less than three sentences and focus on identification of terms, concepts, important passages, and the like. See schedule for dates.

Dialogue will be a five-page write up of an apologetic discussion with a peer who ascribes to Islam, Mormonism, Metaphysical Naturalism, or Religious Pluralism (I need at least five students to commit to writing a dialogue with a Muslim before opening up other options to the class). The dialogue must reflect your familiarity with the best forms of the objections that you are likely to encounter in such a conversation and offer charitable, thoughtful responses. You may leave the discussion unresolved or bring the dialogue to a clear resolution, as you may desire.

The Oral Exam will consist of an hour-long individual conversation with the professor at a scheduled time in which you will be required to answer questions, respond to objections, and generally synthesize and apply course content in an appropriate, ministerial spirit. Oral exams need to be completed within one month of the final class.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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