Apologetics – ST530

Reformed Theological Seminary

Spring Semester 2014

Date: May 21 – 24, 2014
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Christ Community Church
21660 Red Rum Drive, Ashburn, VA 20147

Instructor: Geoff Sackett, gsackett@rts.edu; (703) 448-3393

I. Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students consider the intellectual foundations of the Christian faith and ways to commend that faith in today’s complex world.

II. Course Goals

a. To grow in wisdom and understanding of the apologetic task
b. To appreciate the lordship of Jesus Christ over the apologetic task
c. To become more faithful followers of our Lord in the apologetic task

III. Required Books

b. Steven Cowan (ed.), Five View on Apologetics (Zondervan, 2000)
c. Michael Murray (ed.), Reason for the Hope Within (Eerdmans, 1999)

IV. Recommended Book (not required)

a. James Beilby, Thinking About Christian Apologetics (InterVarsity, 2011)

V. Course Requirements

a. Class participation – 10%. You will be evaluated based on your thoughtful participation in class.
b. **Dialogue – 45%**. Write a 3,500-4,000 word apologetic dialogue between a Christian and a non-believer. The dialogue may be entirely fictional or you may engage in an actual dialogue via email or an Internet discussion board (see the Internet Infidels website). In either case, you must argue your position on an apologetic matter, whether it is the existence of God, the divinity of Jesus, the inspiration of scripture, or a different apologetic topic. Your part in the dialogue should demonstrate a clear grasp of the relevant course material. For a model dialogue, see pages 204-217 of *Apologetics to the Glory of God*.

c. **Final exam – 45%**. The final exam will cover the required reading and lectures. It will consist of short answer and essay questions. It is a take-home exam and must be proctored by a non-family member. You and your proctor will sign an honor form.

VI. **Due Dates**

a. Final Exam. TBD. We will discuss in class.
b. Dialogue. TBD. We will discuss in class.

Return all work as MS Word documents to gsackett@rts.edu

VII. **Schedule of Topics**

Because the reading material can be complex, it is recommended that you begin the reading before class begins. To aid your grasp of the reading material, I recommend that you read it in the order presented below.

a. **Wednesday, May 21**
   
   i. Biblical Foundations of Apologetics
   
   ii. Reading: *Apologetics to the Glory of God*, pp. 1-217

b. **Thursday, May 22**

   i. Approaches to Apologetics
   
   ii. Reading: *Five View on Apologetics*, pp. 26-373

c. **Friday, May 23**

   i. Apologetic Challenges, Part I
   
   ii. Reading: *Reason for the Hope Within*, pp. 1-46, 399-422

d. **Saturday, May 24**
i. Apologetic Challenges, Part II
ii. Reading: *Reason for the Hope Within*, pp. 76-115, 165-216, 318-374

**VIII. Grading Scale**

The standard RTS grading scale will be used in this course.

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