INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

RTS Washington, DC
Spring 2015

Professor: Flavien PARDIGON

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Objectives

This course offers an overview of the field of apologetics and develops an argument for a biblical-theological and confessional approach, in the Reformed tradition. It seeks to equip students with the basic understanding and tools needed to uphold and defend the faith delivered once-for-all in our time and (globalized) place. Trusting in the full sufficiency of Scripture, the goal is to grow in our ability to think biblically in our theology and biblical-theologically in our Christian life, witness and ministry. And all for the glory of the Triune God alone.

Basic Course Outline

I. Introduction

II. In Defense of Apologetics

III. Apologetics Defined

IV. Developing a Biblical and Confessional Approach

V. Classic and Current Challenges to the Christian Faith

VI. Conclusion

REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE

Course participation

Students are expected to interact constructively with the professor and their fellow-students during class time. The quality of that interaction will play into their final grade.

Paper

Students are to write a “dialogue” between them and a Muslim. The instructor will spend some lecture time on Islam and there is some required reading on the subject, as well as some
recommended resources. It should be at least 2000 words long, but should not exceed 15 pages. Please write it double spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font. The dialogue should focus on at least one major issue between Christianity and Islam, and demonstrate the goals, principles, and methods of the apologetic approach studied in class. It should cite at least eight reputable sources in its bibliography.

Please send an electronic copy to the RTS administrator who will forward it to the professor. Due June 26th.

Final exam

The exam must be proctored by an RTS employee, an ordained minister or elder, or an employee of a testing center that offers proctoring services. Your proctor must e-mail your exam to the RTS-DC campus, postmarked no later than June 26th. Three hours, covering all segments of the course. I prefer to have it typed (and in electronic format). If typing is not feasible or practical, then write legibly in dark ink and leave 2 inch margin.

Required readings


Vern S. Poythress, Inerrancy and Worldview: Answering Modern Challenges to the Bible (Crossway, 2012)

Westminster Theological Journal 57 (1995), read the essays by Bahnsen, Dennison, Frame, Gaffin, Krabbendam, Logan and Poythress.


Flavien Pardigon, “Theology of Religions,” https://independent.academia.edu/FlavienPardigon

Recommended readings


Joshua Lingel, Jeff Morton, Bill Nikides, Chrislam: How Missionaries are Promoting an Islamized Gospel (i2, 2011?) Available in kindle format on Amazon.


John Gresham Machen, Christianity and Liberalism (Eerdmans, 2009)


Vern S. Poythress, *Logic: A God-centered Approach to the Foundation of Western Thought* (Crossway, 2013)


Vern S. Poythress, *In the Beginning Was the Word: Language – A God-centered Approach* (Crossway, 2009)


Peter L. Berger, *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics* (Eerdmans, 1999)


Richard Bauckham, *Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology* (Baylor University Press, 2011)


D. A. Carson, *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church: Understanding a Movement and Its Implications* (Zondervan, 2005)

D. A. Carson, *Jesus the Son of God* (IVP, 2012)


Phillip E. Johnson, *Darwin on Trial, 2nd ed* (IVP, 1993)


Daniel Strange, “*For Their Rock is not as Our Rock*”: *An Evangelical Theology of Religions* (Apollos, 2014)