“Terms of Cultural Engagement” is a study of apologetics in public life. Building on the theological first principles identified in the “Foundations” course, this class will address a range of questions about the practical application of that theological perspective. How should Christian citizens witness to biblical truth in an increasingly pluralistic culture? How should our approach account for people’s presuppositions and the existence of natural law? What is culture and how should Christians conceive of our relationship to it or participation in it? What distinctions should be made between the role of the institutional church and the church as the body of believers when it comes to cultural engagement?

Consistent with the Theology and Public Life program’s objective to make concrete, contextual application, this course will address the situation in which Christian citizens are located in the 21st century United States. It will deal with the specific context of America’s constitutional order, history, and sociological realities.

Topics:
- Presuppositional Apologetics
- Natural Law
- Spirituality of the Church
- Civil Religion
- Secularism and Secularization
- Worldview dynamics in major public policy areas
- Religious Liberty

Texts (preliminary, subject to some revision and addition):

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1 The Foundations course is not a prerequisite, and students who have not previously taken it are welcome to enroll in “Terms of Cultural Engagement” as a stand-alone course.


**Assignments:**

- Various writing assignments over the course of the semester (75%)
- Class participation (25%)