

Apologetics (CM4)

*Fridays, 1-3 PM, *Jan. 30 - Mar. 11, 2015*

*Required Texts: Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth & Apologetics, William Lane Craig - \$240 pesos;
Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis - \$190 pesos;
A Ready Defense, Josh McDowell - \$240 pesos.

Ross Arnold, Winter 2015
Lakeside institute of Theology



Policies and Requirements

1. Classes are free, but all students seeking a certificate or degree must purchase books (paper, not electronic), which will be made available by the Institute.
2. Students in certificate or degree tracks may miss no more than one class per course, without arrangements made in advance with the teacher to make up missed work (at the discretion of the teacher).
3. Students in certificate or degree tracks will be required to take a pass/fail final exam in each course, based on study guidelines provided by the teacher.
4. Students in certificate or degree tracks must make a passing grade (based on "pass/fail") in each course in order to receive credit towards a certificate or degree.
5. Candidates for degrees (Master of Theology and Master of Theology & Ministry) must be approved by the Institute Director before final admission into a degree program.

Policies and Requirements for making up classes, or taking classes online (as of April 3, 2014):

- I. All make-up classes must be completed before the beginning of the following term, unless you make special arrangements with the professor.
- II. All classes made up online must be reported via email to rda@rossarnold.net, as follows:
 - A. Each class must be reported in a separate email as soon after watching as possible.
 - B. Each email must contain the following information:
 1. Course title and/or code (NT4, OT3, TH2, etc.).
 2. The date of the original lecture you missed.
 3. The title of the lecture.
 4. A clear statement that you watched all of the lecture video, reviewed the materials and completed the required readings.
- III. Courses taken entirely online require prior approval, and apply only to audit or Certificate (not degree) requirements.

Apologetics (CM4)

Jan. 30 – Introduction to Apologetics

Feb. 6 – Reliability of the Witnesses

Feb. 13 – The Existence of God

Feb. 20 – The Existence of God 2

Feb. 27 – Creation, Prophecy & Miracles

Mar. 6 – The Risen Christ

Mar. 13 – Responding to the Arguments

Mar. 20 – Applying the Principles; Final Exam

Our Biblical Mandate

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-17

“The defense of the faith is not a luxury or intellectual vanity. It is a task appointed by God that you should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in you as you bear witness before the world.” R. C Sproul

Introduction to Apologetics

- **Apologetics** – (from Greek ἀπολογία, "speaking in defense") is the discipline of defending a position (often religious) through the systematic use of information.
- **Christian apologetics** combines Christian theology, natural theology, and philosophy to present a rational basis for the Christian faith, to defend the faith against objections and misrepresentation, and to expose error within other religions and world views.
- Early Christian writers (c. 120–220) who defended their faith against critics and recommended their faith to outsiders were called **Apologists**.

Questions addressed by Christian Apologetics

➤ Questions about God

- How do we know God exists?
- Aren't all religions the same; don't all religions believe in the same God?
- How can we know what God is like?

➤ Questions about Jesus

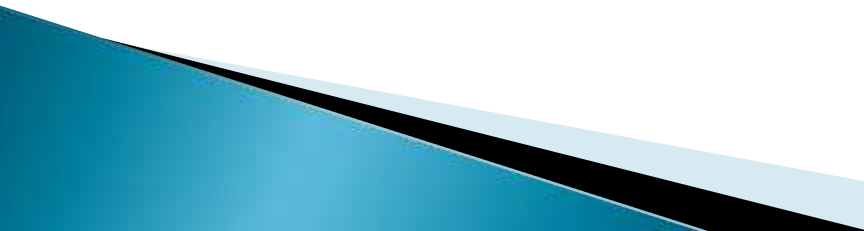
- Did Jesus really exist?
- Did Jesus really claim to be God, and if so was he telling the truth?
- Wasn't Jesus just a great moral teacher & leader?
- Did Jesus really perform miracles?
- Did Jesus really come back from the dead?

Questions addressed by Christian Apologetics

➤ Questions about the Bible

- Is the Bible reliable?
- Isn't the Bible full of contradictions and myths?
- Isn't the Bible interpreted in many different ways by different people?
- Isn't the Bible basically like every other old book?


➤ Questions about Creation

- What evidence is there that God created the universe?
 - How can science and Christianity both be true?
 - Why does God allow evil and suffering in the world?
- 

Brief History of Christian Apologetics

- **The Apostles** (esp. Paul) against Judaizers, proto-Gnostics, Greco-Roman cults, Roman authorities, false Christians, etc.
- **Early Apologists** (c. 120-220 AD) – responded to accusations, especially from Romans, that Christians were cannibals, immoral, incestuous, unlawful, etc.
- **Later Apologists** (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Athanasius, Augustine, others) opposed the predominant heresies of their day: Gnosticism, Arianism, Manichaeism, etc.
- **Middle Ages** saw Scholasticism reclaim philosophy and rational apologetics, especially Thomas Aquinas.
- **Reformation** scholars emphasized a return to the original Bible texts, using these to argue for the faith through fulfilled prophecy, miracles, etc.
- **Modern Apologists** (G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer, Alvin Plantinga, others) use varying apologetics, with the most modern emphasizing evidence from science.

Types of Christian Apologetics

- **Biblical apologetics** – (Robert Dick Wilson, Gleason Archer, Norman Geisler, R. C. Sproul) concerned with the authorship and date of biblical books, biblical canon and biblical inerrancy.
 - **Moral apologetics** – (Jonathon Edwards, C.S. Lewis, Peter Kreeft) states that real moral obligation is a fact, and that the existence of a Moral Law is evidence for God.
 - **Scientific apologetics** – (Michael Behe, William Demenski, William Lane Craig) seeks to reconcile Christianity and science in regard to questions of origins, cosmology, geology, biology and physics.
 - **Experiential apologetics** – argue primarily that experience is self-verifying evidence for Christian faith.
- 

Types of Christian Apologetics


- **Philosophical apologetics** – (Norman Geisler, William Lane Craig, R.C. Sproul) concerns itself primarily with arguments for the existence of God.
- **Prophetic fulfillment** – (Blaise Paschal, Peter Stoner, Josh McDowell) argue that the fulfillment of biblical prophecies provide strong evidence for Christianity.
- **Historical and legal evidentialism** – (Simon Greenleaf; John Warwick Montgomery) legal scholars claiming Western legal standards support the historicity of Christ's resurrection.
- **Presuppositional apologetics** – (John Frame, Greg Bahnsen, Cornelius Van Till) claims that presuppositions are essential to any philosophical position, and that non-Christian presuppositions reduce to absurdity.



Seven Reasons We Need Apologetics

1. We are commanded to defend the faith.
2. Apologetics helps Christians know their own faith.
3. Apologetics can help lead non-Christian to belief and so to eternal salvation.
4. Apologetics can help counter the bad image Christianity has in the media and in culture.
5. Apologetics can help address the threat from false teachings and apostasy in the Church.
6. Apologetics can help stem the rise of immorality.
7. Apologetics offers a Christian alternative to the non-Christian thinking and influence that is dominant in our schools and larger society.

How Apologetics Helps Christians

- To better know their own Christian faith and how to share it more effectively.
 - To answer people's real questions, especially the questions which might hinder them from accepting the gospel.
 - To have influence in the public square (education, media, etc.).
 - To prevent doctrinal apostasy within the Church.
 - To answer the false claims of cults and false religions.
- 

What Apologetics CANNOT Do

- *Prove* that God exists.
 - Prove beyond any possible doubt that Christianity and the Bible witness are true.
 - Argue people into the Kingdom of God.
 - Take the place of the testimony of Scripture or the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Exclusively replace biblical, relational evangelism and discipleship.
- 