



## **APOLOGETICS 201 - Course Syllabus**

**Course Title:** *Apologetics 201 - Christian Apologetics (3 credits)*

### **Course Description**

This course introduces the student to Christian apologetics and focuses on the biblical basis for apologetics, biblical apologetic method, presuppositions, worldview, how Christian theology of God, man, and sin impact apologetics, and practically engaging contemporary culture in defending the faith and proclaiming the truth of God. Includes Christian evidences and a review of various apologetic systems, introductory material on epistemology (how we know things), logic, theology, philosophy, the problems of evil, various religions, science, reason, and other topics at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments include weekly reading and writing assignments about the reading, discussion of the readings, role-playing discussions, two tests, sharing the gospel "in the real world," short essays, comparison of beliefs of world religions, and a presentation to the class on a subject in the area of apologetics.

### **Required Texts**

Farnham, Mark. *Every Believer Confident: Apologetics for the Ordinary Christian*, Deep River Books, 2020.

Pratt, Richard L. Jr. *Every Thought Captive: A Study Manual for The Defense of Christian Truth*, P&R Publishing, 1980.

### **Supplemental Texts for Further Learning**

Anderson, James. N. *Whats Your WorldView? An Interactive Approach to Life's Big Questions*, Crossway, 2014.

Bahnsen, Greg L., and Robert R. Booth. *Always Ready: Directions For Defending the Faith*. Nacogdoches, TX: Covenant Media Press, 1996.

Gundry, Stanley N., and Steven B. Cowan. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

McDowell, Josh. *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, Thomas Nelson, 1999.

Sproul, R. C. *Defending Your Faith: An Introduction to Apologetics*, Crossway: 2018.

Van Til, Cornelius. *The Defense of the Faith*. 4th ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2008.

Vlach, Michael. *Philosophy 101: The "BIG IDEA" for the 101 Most Important People and Concepts in Philosophy*. Stone Tower Books, 2016.

## Prerequisites

None

## Instructors

- Professor: Pastor Matt Postiff, Ph.D., Th.M.
  - Email (preferred method of communication): [pastor@fbcaa.org](mailto:pastor@fbcaa.org)
  - Phone (for urgent matters): 734-417-0023
- Teaching Staff: Daniel Manwiller
  - Email: [daniel.manwiller@anchorbiblecollege.org](mailto:daniel.manwiller@anchorbiblecollege.org)
  - Phone: 734-589-9808

## Class Time

Class will meet once weekly **on Thursdays from 7pm-10pm from 1/9/2025 until 4/24/2025 except for 2/20/2025**. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197. Class time will be broken down into the following approximate schedule:

- Review of reading and homework (7:00 - 7:45)
- Weekly Quiz (7:45 – 8:00)
- Lecture (8:00 - 8:30)
- Break (8:30 - 8:40)
- Lecture (8:40 - 9:25)
- Break (9:25 - 9:30)
- Chapel: Discussion and application (9:30 - 10:00)

## Course Objectives

In this course the student will:

1. Become familiar with various apologetic schools of thought.
2. Understand the presuppositions that underlie these models.
3. Learn the presuppositional method of apologetics.
4. Develop skills in the practical use of apologetics, defending and proclaiming the truth of Christ.

## Assignments

- **Attendance and Participation** – Students are expected to participate in class discussion which will be based on assigned readings and written homework assignments.
- **Reading** – We will be reading two books this semester. For the first book by Farnham, you will read the assigned section, and write out several questions that you would use as quiz questions or as a tool to evaluate someone else's reading comprehension. For the

second book, by Pratt, you will write answers to the study questions provided at the end of each chapter. In both cases, in-class discussion will focus on the questions and answers.

- **Quizzes** - There will be a number of quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous week's study materials including reading and lecture. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material and to prepare them for the exams. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and punctual attendance for the weekly class time. In case of absence, students are to arrange with the instructor for receiving a copy of the quiz electronically, filling it out, and returning it either electronically or at the start of the next class period. Quizzes are CLOSED BOOK.
- **Homework** - There will be a number of written or participatory homework assignments based on the week's lessons. Submission of the homework will generally be done in class, on paper. Some may be done through Canvas, say if you are absent. Typed documents may be uploaded directly. Documents can be scanned and submitted as a complete .pdf document. Homework is graded for effort, accuracy and completeness.
- **Tests** – There are two major tests. The precise schedule for exams will be determined as the class unfolds. Each test will focus on the material learned in the most recent classes. There is of necessity some cumulative nature to the coursework so that later tests will require a solid grasp of the earlier material. Tests are CLOSED BOOK.

## Canvas

Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of homework and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document. **Please make sure you accept the course invitation as soon as possible!**

## Assessment

Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Attendance and Participation	15%	Attendance and instructor evaluation of discussions
Reading	15%	Weekly Reading and Q&A
Quizzes	15%	Weekly quizzes over the previous reading and lecture
Homework	25%	Weekly

Two Tests	30%	Each test is weighted equally in the final grade.
-----------	-----	---

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

A+: $\geq 98\%$	B+: $\geq 88\%$	C+: $\geq 78\%$	D+: $\geq 68\%$	F: $< 60\%$
A: $\geq 92\%$	B: $\geq 82\%$	C: $\geq 72\%$	D: $\geq 62\%$	
A-: $\geq 90\%$	B-: $\geq 80\%$	C-: $\geq 70\%$	D-: $\geq 60\%$	

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

### Class Schedule

Week	Reading Due Today	Topics To Be Discussed Today	Assignments Due Today
1 1/9	There will be weekly reading in this course.	Introductions The matter of inadequacy. What is apologetics? What is the gospel?	What do you hope to learn in this class?
2 1/16	Farnham Ack-ch. 1 Write 5 study questions.	Why apologetics? Question: what challenges have you encountered in or about witnessing for the Lord? God and creation. The nature of people.	Start a glossary.  Write how you might speak with a follower of _____.
3 1/23	Farnham, ch. 2-3 Ditto, and so on below.	Arguments for the existence of God; The Great Debate	Watch MacArthur/Shapiro
4 1/30	Farnham, ch. 4-5	What is a <i>worldview</i> and what is <i>your</i> worldview? (Anderson)	
5 2/6	Farnham, ch. 6-7	Relationship of apologetics to theology, philosophy, epistemology	Write a worldview summary.
6 2/13	Farnham, ch. 8-9	Various evidences and their proper use of evidences. Various types of apologetics. Shortcoming of reason and effects of the fall. History of apologetics.	Watch Lennox/Baker

<b>Week</b>	<b>Reading Due Today</b>	<b>Topics To Be Discussed Today</b>	<b>Assignments Due Today</b>
2/20	Winter "Fur Rendezvous" Break		
7 2/27	Farnham, ch. 10-11	Introduction to influential philosophers and ideas (Vlach).	Watch Craig/Carrier
8 3/6	Farnham, ch. 12-13	Test #1 Presuppositions: what is one, and what are the right ones to believe; common ground.	
9 3/13	Pratt, ch. 1-2 Write answers to the study questions.	Evolution, intelligent design (Michael Behe)	Watch White/Hamimi
10 3/20	Pratt, ch. 3-4 Ditto, and so on below.	Evangelism in general and for specific groups.	Pray with one or more classmates about some unsaved people you know that you would like to witness to.
11 3/27	Pratt, ch. 5-6	The Problems of Evil and How to Respond to Them Watch <a href="#">Frye/Lennox</a> .	Speak with a person who needs the gospel.
12 4/3	Pratt, ch. 7-8	What about belief systems that claim similarity with Christianity?	Watch Bahnsen/Stein
13 4/10	Pratt, ch. 9-10	What about the problem of "You grew up as a Christian, so obviously that is how you are going to believe?"	
14 4/17	Pratt, ch. 11-12	How to use a presuppositional approach in speaking with someone.	
15 4/24	Pratt, ch. 13-14	Catch-up Test #2	Glossary, neatly typed and organized.
16 5/1	No class		

## **Late Policy**

Assignments are expected to be submitted on the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructors discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

## **Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account**

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to setup your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the "Get Started" button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL:

<https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your BIBLE 121 course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you'll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to "Find my School." Select this option and put in "Free Canvas Accounts." Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

## **Appendix: How to submit homework on Canvas**

From the course's Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the homework assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

*For typed documents:*

- Click “Start Assignment” (“Submit Assignment” in the mobile app)
- Click “Upload File” (“Files” in the mobile app)
- Click “Choose File” (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting “Add Another File”

*For handwritten documents:*

You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting “Submit Assignment.”

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

## **Appendix: Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one’s work. Below is outlines the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student’s file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student’s file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student’s file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

## **Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models for Written Assignments**

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else’s work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.