



Department of Biblical Studies

Christian Apologetics Fall 2017

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Block 12 (Periods 2-3: 9:06-10:42) MW; Friday (9:06-9:51)

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Shiloh Christian School

Department of Biblical Studies

Class Website: sutterfield.weebly.com

OVERALL COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE

This new course, under the umbrella of Biblical Studies, is built upon two over-riding principles, which will help guide the course:

- 1) Is there a Reason to believe that the God of the Bible exists?
- 2) Can We Trust the Bible?
- 3) What Does Orthodox, Biblical Christianity teach?

In other words, this course will be comprised of two parts: Apologetics and an overview of Systematic Theology.

Is There a Reason to Believe?

This semester offers students, based on the book *Defending Your Faith*, the classical method for arguing and proving the existence of God. In addition, the class will also address such issues as the Authority of the Scriptures and the trustworthiness of Jesus' teachings. In doing so, this part of the course will give the necessary intellectual and spiritual skills needed to help students fulfill the Mission of Shiloh Christian School: *To develop Godly leaders who engage our culture and change it.* However, this class is

merely an overview. It is not intended to be a comprehensive study of apologetics but an introduction to apologetics on the two major propositions Christians must defend in culture today: the existence of God and the authority of the Bible.

What Do Orthodox Christians Believe?

From there, this will set the ground work for the second half of the course (the Spring Semester), in which students will study the basic building blocks of orthodox Christianity. Here students will be exposed to a brief overview of Systematic Theology. The aim of this class is to inform students what Christians believe. In doing so, Systematic Theology helps to show not only how these truths and doctrines of Scripture connect, but it also helps to highlight what exactly orthodox Christianity has held to historically.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND CLASS FORMAT

1. To give students an overview to the core tenants and beliefs of Classical and Historical Christianity
2. To expose students to the primary doctrines of the Christian Faith
3. To help students be able to defend their faith and to fulfill the mandate from the apostle Peter “to be able to give a reason for the hope that lies within.”

The course involves a series of interactive lectures. The student is encouraged to engage the instructor via questions and comments. Because of the nature of the content of this course and the volume of the material to be covered, it is necessary for students to participate in all class sessions.

BASIS OF THIS CLASS

- *Defending Your Faith: An Overview of Classical Apologetics*
- Various handouts and online resources
- *Understanding the Faith* (ebook)

REQUIRED READINGS AND RESOURCES

Reading resources for this class will be presented primarily in the form of handouts or via lectures.

Required Reading

Handouts and outside materials found on the Internet or in library research.

Make-Up Test Policy

- Exams/quizzes will be announced on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester. Any adjustments to the exam schedule will be communicated to the students at least one week in advance.

- All students will take a scheduled exam on the day it is given. An absence the class(es) prior to the exam will NOT exempt the student from the exam on the scheduled day the exam is given.
- The only scenario where a student will not take an exam on the day it is scheduled is if the student is physically absent from class. In such a case, the student will be expected to take the exam the first day back in class during the class time.
- Failure to abide by the above guidelines will result in a non-negotiable “0” for the exam without the possibility of another make-up exam.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS

The following assignments and assessments are to be completed as described below by the dates outlined in the course schedule or as indicated by the instructor.

Grading

Percentages: **Quizzes (10 Quizzes): (6 %/ Quiz) = 60%**

- **Students are allowed to use their notes on quizzes**

Exams (4) = 40%

- **No notes allowed on the exams**

Final Exam (Comprehensive)

*Late Assignments******

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for life as is the mastery of course content. Therefore, assignments are due *in class* on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments not submitted *in class* are considered late and earn an **automatic extension penalty of 20% for the first day and an additional 20% for each day that follows.** Thus, a student is allowed one week to submit a late paper to receive any possible credit, *no exceptions*.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Any time a student is absent, he/she will be expected to make-up all missed work. Whenever a student is absent from class that absence will fall under one of three categories:

Excused Absences:

An excused absence as outlined by the Student Handbook will result in 100% credit for all make-up work completed within the allotted time frame.

Unexcused Absences:

Unexcused absences as outlined by the Student Handbook will result in 50% credit for all make-up work completed within the allotted time frame.

Unexcused Absence with Parental Permission:

An unexcused absence with parental permission as outlined by the Student Handbook will result in 100% credit for all make-up work completed within the allotted time frame.

Excessive Absences:

Seven absences per semester will be considered excessive. See the Student Handbook for penalties related to excessive absences.

Tardies:

Four tardies per semester in the same class will be considered excessive. The fourth tardy will constitute one unexcused absence.

COURSE VALUES AND ETIQUETTE

The following values and etiquette are to be observed in this course.

Respect for Divergent Viewpoints

Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual theft or literary theft better known as plagiarism. Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

Special Needs

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

GRADING SCALE

The final grade will be based on the total accumulations of points as indicated under *Learning Activities and Assessments* converted into a percentage. The following grading scale will be used to assign the final letter grade:

	PERCENTAGE GRADE	LETTER GRADE
	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	60-69	D
F	Less than 60 points earned – which is almost impossible to achieve unless you don't do the work!	