Introduction to Apologetics

*Note: All content provided in the professor’s notes, course chart and course syllabus are based on the professor’s opinion and may vary from professor to professor & student to student. All content may be changed without notice. This information is for the purpose to provide analysis but is not binding in any form.
APOL 500—Introduction to Apologetics
Professor’s notes*
As of September 8, 2008

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From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the overall level of difficulty of this course?

Level of demand = 6
I believe this course could be taken with one other course within an 8-week format.

From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the reading requirements in this course?

Level of demand =8
Compared to other courses (e.g. THEO 510, NGRK 506 etc), the reading is a bit heavier. This course relies moderately heavily on reading—books, websites and course documents.

From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the lecture requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 2
This course contains outlines and discussions on-line. Most of these can be viewed or completed within a reasonable period of time and should not be too demanding. Most of the lecture content is found in the readings and discussions.

From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the online exam requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 3
There are only two exams and both are true/false and multiple choice. There require a bit of preparation, and are closed book/notes and are timed. They do not require much in the way of synthesis—this is an introductory course—but they are not really “easy.” There are no “trick questions” however.

From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the discussion board requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 6
This course contains six online, graded Discussion Boards. The requirements are clearly stated and defined. Students must post to the topic, respond to other posts, and then respond to the responses to their posts. This is quite a bit of interaction.

From a Scale 1-10 (1 = low demands; 5 = moderate demands; 10 = very demanding), How would you rate the level of the written paper requirements in this course?

Level of demand = 1
This course, as an introductory course, does not have a written paper requirement. The discussion board assignments, which are extensive, replace this and achieve the same goal (synthesis of material, critical analysis, consideration of alternate views).

Additional comments:

This course has been in this format for over a year now. It challenges students to think about a wide range of apologetic questions, from motivation for apologetics, to methods of apologetics, to specific issues. Students are challenged to see apologetics as a part of an overall ministry in every area of church life.

Through the discussion boards, the student will be challenged to consider various perspectives on issues in many different areas of Apologetics.

The course is designed to appeal to people who anticipate leadership roles in the church whether as laymen/deacons/Sunday School teachers or as ordained ministers. The course assumes a passion for upholding and defending orthodox Christian doctrine.
Syllabus

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM
LIBERTY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

APOL 500
INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


COURSE DESCRIPTION

Deals with the Biblical basis for apologetics, methodology, and the relationship between faith and reason before turning to scientific and historical evidences. Its relationship to theology and evangelism is also explored.

I. RATIONALE

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." (1 Peter 3:15, NKJV)
II. **Prerequisites**

A heart’s desire to know and defend the truth of Jesus Christ in the midst of a dark world.

III. **Course Objectives**

The student will be able to:

A. Discuss the biblical basis for apologetics.
B. Know the benefits of apologetics for ministry.
C. Describe five different apologetic methods
D. Defend the existence of God in light of the problem of evil.
E. Understand Christian truth claims and the need for objective truth.
F. Discuss the biblical worldview and its ramifications for apologetics.
G. List arguments for the inerrancy of the Bible and the resurrection of Jesus.
H. Discuss the traditional arguments for the existence of God.
I. Discuss problems and flaws in the postmodern world view.
J. Be able to defend the rationality of belief in creation over evolution.
K. Be able to defend Christian truth claims in light of modern apologetic issues such as pluralism.

IV. **Materials for Learning**

A. Internet access and Microsoft Word
B. Textbooks

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Textbook/on-line readings
B. Discussion Board Participation
C. Exams (2)

V. **Evaluation and Grading**

A. Weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Discussion Board Participation</td>
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B. Scale

<table>
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<td>D</td>
<td>68-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-67</td>
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NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR THIS COURSE!!
**COURSE SCHEDULE:** The course consists of Eight Modules. Students should plan to complete one module per week. The modules are designed so that there is less content on the weeks when Exams are taken. This is so that students may have time to review and reflect on course material before taking each Exam. See “Procedures” within the Module folders.
## Course Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Textbook Reading</th>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
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| **1**  
Introduction to the Course | *No Doubt About It*  
Chs. 1–4, 13 | Part I – How Apologetics Fits Into Ministry Today  
Part II – The Biblical Basis for Apologetics  
Part III – Basic Christian Doctrines and Their Defense / The Concept of Truth Itself |
| **2**  
Classical Apologetics | *Five Views on Apologetics*  
Section 1  
*No Doubt About It*  
Chs. 6–7  
*Mere Christianity*  
Book 1  
*Mere Christianity*  
Book 2 | Part I – Methodology of Classical Apologetics  
Part II – The Existence of God  
Part III – The Deity of Jesus Christ |
| **3**  
Evidentialism I | *Five Views on Apologetics*  
Ch. 2  
*No Doubt About It*  
Chs. 9–10 |  |
| **4**  
Evidentialism II | *Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds* | Mid-term Exam |
| **5**  
Cumulative Case Apologetics and Postmodernism | *Five Views on Apologetics*  
Ch. 3 (pp. 148–206)  
*Truth Decay*  
Chs. 2–4, 10–11, Appendix | Cumulative Case Apologetics Postmodernism  
Biblical Worldview Discussion Board – Worldview Questions |
| **6**  
Pre-suppositional and Reformed Epistemology | *Five Views on Apologetics*  
Chs. 4–5 | Presuppositional Apologetics  
Reformed Epistemology  
Apologetics Evangelism |
| **7**  
Modern Issues in Apologetics I | *Is Jesus the Only Savior*  
Chs. 1–3  
Chs. 4–6 | Part I – Pluralism, Discussion Board  
Part II – Exclusivism |
| **8**  
Modern Issues in Apologetics II |  | Final Exam |