

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

### **SCHOOL OF DIVINITY**

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#### **APOL 679**

#### **APOLOGETICS CAPSTONE**

#### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The student should be able to demonstrate an ability to reflect, integrate and apply apologetics knowledge to a specific problem facing Christianity. Apologetic reflection should be transformational, in that it influences, motivates, and empowers the student to live for Christ and further His kingdom.

#### **II. RATIONALE**

The goal of the MA in Christian Apologetics is to study the Scriptures and Christian thought with an aim toward defending Christianity's truth-claims. This course seeks to bring together the cumulative knowledge and methods which the student has absorbed with the goal of responding to a specific question or problem facing Christianity. In constructing a specific, focused argument, the student will be able to implement research and argumentation strategies with the goal of both presenting and embodying truth through the argument and form of rhetoric used.

#### **III. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **IV. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **V. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)

#### **VI. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Formulate a research topic that is suitable for a capstone research paper.
- B. Evaluate sources critically.
- C. Design a thesis proposal that identifies the topic clearly, demonstrates understanding of the topic, forecasts the structure of the argument, makes effective use of language, and incorporates an appropriate number of scholarly sources.
- D. Develop a response to a problem facing Christianity by utilizing the basic tools of the discipline in a manner relevant to the selected topic.

**VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS (NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS MAY VARY)**

**A. Book Critiques (MLO B)**

The student will complete 4 book critiques on the select texts approved by the professor. Each critique should be between 5 – 7 pages in length and contain at least 5 resources.

**B. Discussion Board (MLO A)**

The student will participate in 1 Discussion Board designed to help them refine their topic and thesis statement. The student will post a minimum 300-word paragraph explaining their research project and also post their thesis statement. Each student will then reply to at least 2 classmates with feedback and constructive critique of the project.

**C. Research Paper on a Select Topic in the (MLOs A, B, C, D)**

There are multiple parts to this assignment:

**i. Research Paper: Topic (MLO A)**

The student will submit a topic that is related to the focus of the Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics program.

**ii. Research Paper: Bibliography (MLO C)**

The student will complete a bibliography of initially at least 15 of the 30 minimum required resources for the project. The student will then select 4 of these sources to complete for the book critique assignments.

**iii. Research Paper: Outline & Revised Thesis (MLO C)**

After reviewing the feedback from the instructor on the research topic assignment, the student will complete an initial outline and revised thesis statement for the paper. The outline should consist of an Introduction, at least 3 major sections, and a Conclusion. Headings should follow the style prescribed in the Seminary Writing Guide.

**iv. Research Paper: Draft & Revision (MLO C)**

The student will complete drafts of the major sections of the research paper throughout the course as well as revised drafts. The draft should incorporate

the student's best possible work, and the revisions should incorporate all of the suggestions and criticisms offered by the instructor.

v. Research Paper: Final Submission (MLOs A, B, C, D)

As a final step in the process, the student will compile the previously revised documents and drafts and submit a completed 32 to 40 page Research Paper. The paper must include 7 sections: Title page, Table of Contents, Introduction (with thesis statement), Body (minimum of 3 sections with the total number of sections varying), Conclusion, and Bibliography. This paper should contain at least 30 scholarly sources (not counting the Bible).

## VIII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

### A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10 pts
Book Critiques (4 @ 100 pts. each)	400 pts.
Research Topic	25 pts.
Bibliography	25 pts.
Outline & Revised Thesis	25 pts.
Discussion Board Forum (x1)	50 pts.
Draft of First Major Section	25 pts.
Revised Draft of First Major Section	25 pts.
Draft of Second Major Section	25 pts.
Revised Draft of Second Major Section	25 pts.
Draft of Final Section(s)	25 pts.
Revised Draft of Final Section(s)	25 pts.
Reading Report	25 pts.
Research Paper	300 pts.

**Total Points** 1010 pts

### B. Scale

940-1010	A
920-939	A-
900-929	B+
860-899	B
840-859	B-
820-839	C+

780–819	C
760–779	C-
740–759	D+
700–739	D
680–699	D-
BELOW 679	F

### C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

### D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

### E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

### F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **APOL 679**

Textbooks: Texts are determined by the student's area of study in consultation with the instructor.

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Research Topic	10 0 25
<b>2</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Bibliography	25
<b>3</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Outline & Revised Thesis	25
<b>4</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	DB Forum 1	50
<b>5</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Book Critique 1	100
<b>6</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Draft of First Major Section	25
<b>7</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Book Critique 2	100
<b>8</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Revised Draft of First Major Section	25
<b>9</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Book Critique 3	100
<b>10</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Draft of Second Major Section	25

<b>11</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Book Critique 4	100
<b>12</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Revised Draft of Second Major Section	25
<b>13</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Draft of Final Section(s)	25
<b>14</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Revised Draft of Final Section(s)	25
<b>15</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Reading Report	25
<b>16</b>	Texts & sources approved by instructor.	Final Submission of Major Research Paper	300
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.