



MUNSTER BIBLE COLLEGE—JANUARY 2018
APOLOGETICS
TED CABAL, Ph.D.

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense (ἀπολογία) to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3.15

Course Description

The course will introduce the student to various ways great Christian thinkers have presented and defended the faith against the challenges of their day. Some of the topics include biblical inspiration & inerrancy, the formation of the canon, and the Bible's amazingly faithful manuscript transmission. The course will introduce powerful reasons belief in God is supremely rational, and how atheistic challenges from evil, religious diversity and philosophical rejections of the supernatural can be defeated. Special attention will be given to the extraordinary historical evidence for the central event of Christianity, the resurrection of Jesus. Ultimately, the objective of the course is for the student to utilize Christian apologetics in personal witness for Jesus Christ.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course the student should be able to understand and apply essential Christian apologetics in ministry. This objective will be achieved from:

1. Reading the course texts below, as well as any supplemental material that may be assigned by the professor;
2. Course lectures;
3. Preparation for the final exam, reading statements, and the apologetics conversation, and;
4. Preparation and presentation of the apologetics class outline.

Required Text Book: Certificate Students

1. Cabal, Ted, ed. *The Apologetics Study Bible*. Nashville: B&H, 2007 & 2017. [Hereafter Cabal; pages for short readings [below] = editions from 2007/2017]

Diploma Students Add Two More:

2. Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009. [Koukl]

3. Pearcey, Nancy. *Finding Truth: 5 Principles for Unmasking Atheism, Secularism, and Other God Substitutes*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2015. [Pearcey]

Assignments: Certificate Students

1. The **reading statement** for Cabal will provide short answers to the following questions using complete sentences. No more than a paragraph is necessary for each answer.

- a. What percentage of the readings did you finish?
- b. What insights did you gain from them?
- c. What are your strongest disagreements with the readings?
- d. What ideas discussed in the readings revealed your need for further study?

2. The certificate student is also to initiate an **“apologetics” conversation** with an unbeliever. This assignment entails simply seeking to defend and/or present essential gospel truth using strategies and ideas learned in the course. The report consists of providing a two or three paragraph general description of your conversation.

Assignments: Diploma Students

1. **Reading statements** will provide short answers to the following questions using complete sentences. No more than a paragraph is necessary for each answer.

for Cabal, Koukl, and Pearcey

- a. What percentage of the readings/book did you finish?

for Koukl and Pearcey

- b. What insights did you gain? (300 words)
- c. What are your strongest disagreements with the readings/book? (300 words)
- d. What ideas discussed in the readings/book revealed your need for further study? (300 words)

2. The diploma student is also to initiate an **“apologetics” conversation** with an unbeliever. This assignment entails simply seeking to defend and/or present essential gospel truth using strategies and ideas learned in the course. The report consists of providing a two or three paragraph general description of your conversation. (max 750 words)

3. The diploma student will take a **final exam** based on the class lectures.
4. The diploma student is to develop an **outline for teaching apologetics** to “beginners.” Utilizing the major points learned in the apologetics course, the student is to work up their own introduction to apologetics for another Christian or small group in their church (approx. 1500 words). The lesson should be developed in conjunction with the student’s pastor, and if he approves, presented to others with the purpose of helping them become more effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. The outline and presentation should be simple, concise and developed in the student’s own words and conclusions from the course. Ideas that should be addressed in the presentation include:
 1. How is apologetics related to evangelism?
 2. What fundamental assumptions should undergird the witness/apologist (Bible in relation to truth, the heart of unbelievers, etc.)?
 3. Does the New Testament present examples of how to share one’s faith with people of different religious/intellectual backgrounds? Do these NT examples reveal a difference between sharing/defending the faith with groups of people as opposed to individuals?
 4. How should one think about methods, strategies and theories of apologetics in preparation to sharing the faith?
 5. What are some typical objections to Christianity for which the evangelist/apologist should gain some basic knowledge?

Grading and Evaluation: Certificate

1. The **reading statement** will count 65% of the final grade.
2. The **apologetics conversation** comprises 35% of the final grade.

Grading and Evaluation: Diploma

1. The **final exam** contributes 25% toward the semester grade.
2. The **reading statements** will count 25% of the final grade.
3. The **apologetics conversation** comprises 25% of the final grade.
4. Completing the **outline for teaching apologetics** accounts for 25% of the final grade.

Cabal Readings *Apologetics Study Bible.*
Pages for readings from editions 2007/2017

Strobel Testimony xxvi
Handling Challenges 1440/1202
Dealing with doubt 1614/1341
What is apologetics? xxv

Justin Martyr 1900/1589
Irenaeus 1866/1560
Athanasius 1783/1491
Augustine 1797/1502
Anselm 801/650
Aquinas 957/782
Blaise Pascal 1243/1023
Joseph Butler 844/685
William Paley 71/58
C.S. Lewis 1827/1527
Cornelius Van Til 1690/1407
Christianity's Influence on History 274/220
Jesus and Violence 330/264
Missionary Cultural Imposition 652/523
Inspiration 1812/1516
Bible have correct books? 724/585
Bible Copied Accurately? 468/376
Historical criticism 1467/1223
Biblical inerrancy 1412/1175
OT Trustworthy? 345/276
NT Trustworthy? 1452/1211
Gospels accuracy 1511/1258
NT quote OT accurately? 1408/1172
Defense of the Bible (2)
History xxx
Pentateuch 158/131
Biblical Chronology 507/409
Kings & Chronicles xxxvi/xxxvii
Numbers in the Bible xxxiii/xxxiv
Genealogies 14/13
Places 25/22
OT ethical? 116/95
Biblical miracles and paganism 1430/1193
Non-biblical gospels 1503/1253
Israel's unique 126/104
Biblical prophecy xxviii, 1351/1121
Bible and archaeology 1148/943
Resurrection of Jesus 1621/1347, 1628/1353, 1728/1445
Unresolved Bible Questions 382/306
Who made God? 869/705
Divine Omnipotence 1489/1242
The Trinity 1459/1217
Incarnation 1776/1485
Anthropology 795/645

Sovereignty and Freedom 1054/864, 1850/1546
Problem of Evil 736/598
Demons? 1475/1230
Hell? 1484/1239
OT Works Salvation? 29/26
Those who never heard? 1535/1275, 1696/1412
Science and Bible 831/674, 1314/1085
God's Actions and Science 1003/823
Church & Galileo 746/607
Evolution 7/8
Miracles 96/79
Witnessing to naturalists 946/773
Existence Mind Show God? 624/502
Cosmological Argument 806/654
Design Argument 1327/1097
Moral Argument 1687/1405
Life after death? 1595/1325, 1598/1328
New Religious Movements 1874/1568
Witnessing to non-Christian movements 1654/1377
Mormonism 39/34
Jehovah's Witnesses 1562/1297
Christian Science 1871/1564
All Religions Same? 566/456
Is Jesus unique? 1582/1316
Judaism 1758/1468
Eastern Religions 1270/1045
Hinduism 1066/875
Buddhism 1915/1601
Baha'i Faith 1103/906
Islam 1602/1331, 1754/1179
Scientology 1745/1458
New Age 1784/1492
Bible and Reincarnation 1832/1531
Upbringing and Religion 1199/988
Postmodernism 1385/1151
Truth? 1608/1336
Self-defeating beliefs 1741/1455
Worldview relativism 1858/1554
Christianity intolerant? 1882/1574