

5. Apologetics

1. Course Overview

- 1) Apologetics is a branch of theology dedicated to the rational defense of the Christian faith. It seeks to respond to challenges against biblical truth, the deity of Jesus Christ, and the uniqueness of the gospel.
 - 2) This course equips students with theological, philosophical, and historical tools to explain and defend their faith with confidence and clarity.
 - 3) From the apologetics of the early church to modern scientific and philosophical objections, students will learn how to engage the world with a gospel-centered response.
 - 4) Apologetics is not merely debate, but an act of love—giving reason for the hope within (1 Peter 3:15), grounded in truth and compassion.
-

2. Course Objectives

- 1) To learn how to defend the Christian faith using philosophical, historical, and biblical reasoning.
 - 2) To respond to heresies and ideologies such as atheism, deism, and religious pluralism.
 - 3) To develop logical thinking that can engage contemporary questions with gospel-centered answers.
 - 4) To practice apologetic dialogue in evangelism and mission contexts.
 - 5) To build a Pauline conviction of truth, based on his gospel-centered defense methods.
-

3. Main Topics (Weekly Breakdown)

Week	Topic	Description
Week 1	Definition and History of Apologetics	Overview of apologetics from the early church to the modern era
Week 2	Defending the Reliability of Scripture	Manuscripts, archaeology, and fulfilled prophecy
Week 3	The Deity and Resurrection of Jesus	Historical evidence and testimony of the early church
Week 4	Philosophical Arguments for God	Cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments
Week 5	The Problem of Evil and God's Goodness	Suffering, divine sovereignty, and biblical hope
Week 6	Responding to Atheism and Skepticism	Critique of Richard Dawkins, Nietzsche, and Stephen Hawking
Week 7	Truth and the Critique of Pluralism	Refuting the claim "all religions are the same"
Week 8	Science and Faith	Creation vs. Evolution and harmony between Scripture and science
Week 9	Responding to Attacks on Biblical Ethics	Homosexuality, abortion, war, and moral issues
Week 10	Paul's Apologetic Method	Defense of the gospel in Acts and Pauline epistles
Week 11	Apologetics in Mission Fields	Strategies for Islam, Buddhism, Confucian cultures
Week 12	Practical Apologetics in Daily Life	Dialogue in home, school, workplace

Week 13 Integrating Testimony and Apologetics
Week 14 Cultural Issues and Christian Apologetics
Week 15 Final Review and Apologetic Presentation

Living out truth in personal life and witness
AI, transhumanism, and postmodernism
Student presentations and case-based analysis

4. Required Textbooks

- 1) C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity
- 2) William Lane Craig, Reasonable Faith
- 3) Timothy Keller, The Reason for God
- 4) Paul Copan, True for You, But Not for Me
- 5) Selected readings from the Pauline Epistles and Acts

5. Assessment

- 1) Attendance and Class Participation: 20%
- 2) Apologetics Presentation: 30%
- 3) Midterm Exam (Essay-based): 20%
- 4) Final Paper (Case-based Apologetics Report): 30%

6. Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will gain firm theological conviction and confidence in faith.
- 2) They will be able to share the gospel intellectually and compassionately.
- 3) They will discern heresies and false ideologies from a biblical perspective.
- 4) They will be equipped to stand for truth in a postmodern world with boldness and love.