

## **Christian Apologetics**

3ECTS 8h face-to-face lecture and 70h independent work

Teacher: Rev Dr Seidel Boanerges, Dean, Spurgeon's College, London

### **Learning outcomes. The student who completes the course..**

- demonstrates a broad knowledge of the biblical and contemporary backgrounds of apologetics;
- Is aware of the various contemporary apologetical issues and challenges;
- develops an ability to be creative and reimagine apologetics for today;
- uses interpersonal skills to clarify, identify and resolve apologetical issues;
- demonstrates time management, literary, IT and organisational skills by their ability to plan and present their assignments effectively

### **Grading**

<i>Assessment methods</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Assessment criteria</i>
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**Audio/video recording (5-10 mins) of a student addressing a topic (4 options). Choose ONE from the following list.**

- God does not exist. Is there any evidence for the existence of God?
- Can we really trust the Bible today?
- How can a dead man (Jesus Christ) come back to life? Can you prove the resurrection of Christ?
- Why does God allow suffering and pain? Why didn't he stop the wars or the COVID-19 pandemic?

**1. Content and Argumentation**

- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the chosen topic.
- Provides coherent arguments, supported by relevant evidence and examples.
- Directly addresses the question or issue in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

**2. Delivery and Presentation**

- Speaks clearly and audibly, with an appropriate pace and tone.

**3. Use of Evidence and Critical Thinking**

- Draws on insight from required reading, evidence, and personal insights to support points.
- Engages critically with the topic, showing awareness of counterarguments.

**4. Structure and Timing**

- Provides a clear introduction outlining the purpose and closes with a strong summary or reflection.
- Maintains a well-organized structure with clear transitions between points.
- Stays within the 5-10 minute time limit.

**Bibliography** is added on a separate list.

<p><b>An Essay of 1000-1200 words (5 options). Choose <u>ONE</u> from the following list.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the biblical and theological foundations for evangelism and apologetics?</li> <li>• Discuss the concept of inerrancy and how we should approach the apparent Bible contradictions.</li> <li>• Explore the uniqueness of Jesus Christ among the world of other gods and goddesses.</li> <li>• Critically explore TWO common barriers to the Christian faith today. How can we address them?</li> <li>• Muslims reject the idea that Jesus died on the cross and, therefore, do not believe in the resurrection of Christ. As an apologist, how can you prove the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from Christian and non-Christian sources?</li> </ul>		<p><b>Content and Argumentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and responds effectively to the question or prompt.</li> <li>• Arguments are coherent and supported by relevant evidence.</li> <li>• Sources of the suggested bibliography have been critically engaged with.</li> </ul> <p><b>1. Structure and Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction is clear and outlines the purpose and approach.</li> <li>• Body paragraphs are logically ordered with clear topic sentences and effective transitions.</li> <li>• Concludes with a summary of key points and reflects on the overall argument and/or topic.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Use of Sources and Referencing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant academic sources are used to support arguments.</li> <li>• References are correctly cited in the required style.</li> <li>• Shows no evidence of plagiarism or over-reliance on a single source.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Adherence to Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stays within the required word count (1000-1200 words).</li> <li>• Is submitted on time and includes all required components.</li> </ul>
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**Assessment is non-differentiated (pass-fail). Final mark** comes together if the recording and essay are uploaded in Moodle in time.

**Learning process**

12.04	<p><b>Mandatory pre-reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ McGrath, Alister E., <i>Mere Apologetics. How to help seekers and skeptics find faith</i> (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2012)</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 1 - Getting Started</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Boa, Ken and Robert Bowman Jr., <i>Faith Has Its Reasons: Integrative Approaches to Defending the Christian Faith</i>, 2nd edn (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005)</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 2 - A BRIEF HISTORY OF APOLOGETICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Geisler, Norman L., <i>If God, Why Evil?: A New Way To Think About The Question</i> (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2011)</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 5 - The Purpose of Evil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Seidel Abel Boanerges, <i>Holistic Apologetics: Re-Imagining Apologetics for the 21st Century</i> (Oxford: Whitley Publications, 2025)</li> <li>■ Groothuis, Douglas, <i>Christian Apologetics - A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith</i> (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011)</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 24 - Apologetics and the Challenge of Islam</b></p>
12.04	<p>8 hour of face-to-face lectures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Apologetics</li> <li>2. The Reliability of the Bible</li> <li>3. Science, Religion &amp; the Existence of God</li> <li>4. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ</li> <li>5. The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ</li> <li>6. The Problem of Evil and Suffering</li> <li>7. Barriers to Faith</li> <li>8. Witnessing to World Religions – (Case Study on Islam)</li> </ol>

**Bibliography:**

**Core Reading**

Abel Boanerges, Seidel, *Holistic Apologetics: Re-Imagining Apologetics for the 21st Century* (Oxford: Whitley Publications, 2025)

Geisler, Norman L., *If God, Why Evil?: A New Way To Think About The Question* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2011)

McGrath, Alister E., *Mere Apologetics. How to help seekers and skeptics find faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2012)

Orr-Ewing, Amy, *Why Trust the Bible?: Answers to 10 Tough Questions* (Leicester: IVP, 2008)

### **Other Reading**

Boa, Ken and Robert Bowman Jr., *Faith Has Its Reasons: Integrative Approaches to Defending the Christian Faiths*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005)

Geisler, Norman L., *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008)

Groothuis, Douglas, *Christian Apologetics - A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011)

Gould, Paul M., *Cultural Apologetics Renewing the Christian Voice, Conscience, and Imagination in a Disenchanted World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019)

McDowell, Sean, eds., *A New Kind of Apologist* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2016)

Ordway, Holly, *Apologetics and the Christian Imagination: An Integrated Approach to Defending the Faith* (Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road, 2017)

Stackhouse, John .G., *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)