

EVG680 APPLYING APOLOGETICS TO EVANGELISM

Lyle Pointer, Professor
Fall 2008 Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION—

This course explores intellectual evangelism which addresses the thinking patterns of the post-modern generation. Psychological and cultural obstacles to salvation are examined in light of biblical and theological truths. Issues of personal values and perceived authorities are given attention. The Apostle's Creed and the Wesleyan quadrilateral are examined as an effective framework for evangelism. Other religions and thought processes are examined for means of evangelism.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES—

- ◆ To grasp an appreciation for applied apologetics.
- ◆ To articulate a history of apologetics particularly as seen in Bible times.
- ◆ To utilize a Wesleyan apologetic aimed toward evangelism.
- ◆ To timely and persuasively engage our cultural in discussion about the centrality of Jesus.
- ◆ To become proficient in the knowledge of how to reach certain people groups.

TEXTS—

McLaren, Brian D. More Ready than You Think. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Richardson, Rick. Evangelism Outside the Box. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Sire, James W. Why Should Anyone Believe Anything At All? Downers Grove: InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1994.

Strobel, Lee. The Case for Faith. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE—

1. Digest textbooks.
 - a. Write a four page paper comparing McLaren's book to Richardson's. **Due Sept. 18.**
 - b. Highlight key ideas and paragraphs in Strobel. Bring Strobel's book to class on **Sept. 25** for the professor to review your highlights.
 - c. Take a test on Sire on **Oct. 9.**
2. Read an additional text from the library on apologetics. Write a five page paper. Four pages will be given to summarizing the book and one page to interacting with its contents. The selection of the text must be pre-approved by your professor, so no two students read the same one. **Due Oct. 30.**
3. Engage in conversations with three persons who are admittedly unsaved. Write verbatims using the accompanying form to report your interaction with these unbelievers. **Due Oct. 22, Nov. 6, 13.**

4. Develop talking points reflecting a Wesleyan perspective. With other students build a bridge from an inquirer's question to a positive proclamation of Jesus as Savior. **Due Nov. 20.**
5. With the consent of the professor develop an area of specialty, for example ministry to Mormons, New Agers, or the scientifically minded. Write a teaching module on your specialty with lectures, participants handouts, or Power Point presentation. The module will then be taught in the class. **Due Nov. 13.**
6. Read the article "How To Be The Church In A Society That Has Gained the Whole World" by Robert Ballah. Write a 5 page paper that confronts the typical American philosophy expressed in the last paragraph of the article. Include in your response paper two suggested scripts to be used by a Christian in (1) countering individualism and (2) selling community as necessary and desirable. **Due Sept. 18.**
7. Evaluate five website dealing with Christian apologetics. Write a 2-3 page report detailing your observations. What is the one site you found most helpful and why? **Due Sept. 12.**
8. A test will be given the week of finals.

GRADING—

Late papers will not be accepted after 1 week. All late work will receive a 10% deduction. No work will be accepted after Nov. 26. The professor may not read or grade late work until the last week of the semester.

Grading will be based on:

91-100%	= A
81-90%	= B
71-80%	= C
61-70%	= D
Below 60%	= F

The assignments are worth the following points:

Website evaluation	50 points
Comparative paper	100 points
Exams (2 @ 100)	200 points
Papers (2 @ 100)	200 points
Verbatims (3 @50 points)	150 points
Talking Points	100 points
Teach Specialty	150 points
Highlighted text	<u>75 points</u>
Total Possible	1025 points

EVG680 Applying Apologetics to Evangelism Course Outline

- I. Introduction to Apologetics
- II. Rationale for Apologetics
- III. History of Apologetics
- IV. Christianity Under Apologetic's Scrutiny
- V. Wesleyan Apologetics
- VI. Reason vs. Faith
- VII. A Place to Stand
- VIII. Applying Apologetics
 - A. Starting where people are
 - B. Understanding why people are not Christians
 - C. Building bridges
- IX. Reaching Our Multicultural World
- X. Engaging The Culture For Christ
 - A. Relativism
 - B. Pluralism
 - C. Pragmatism
 - D. Naturalism
 - E. Univeralism
 - F. Syncretism
 - G. Idealism
- XI. Evangelizing The Scientific Mind
- XII. Wrestling With The Problems Of Evil
- XIII. Answering Atheists
- XIV. Evangelizing Muslims
- XV. Evangelizing Jews
- XVI. Evangelizing Buddhists
- XVII. Evangelizing Hindus
- XVIII. Reaching Hispanics