



Syllabus

THE 377: Apologetics **Genesis Bible Institute**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Does evolution disprove God? Is the Bible just an ancient book of myths and exaggerations? Was Jesus' resurrection really just an elaborate hoax? This course will address such questions and introduce students to methodology and strategies of Christian apologetics. Students will explore basic reasoning and logic. They will see how apologetic arguments, coupled with solid evidence, are used to both debunk atheistic arguments against God and build positive cases for belief in God and the Bible. Many common challenges to Christianity will be addressed, ranging from the existence of God to the reliability of the New Testament. Students will complete the course with skills to both defend the Christian faith against doubters and reinforce the faith of believers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and use reasoning and logic;
- Cite and explain evidence for the reliability of the New Testament documents;
- Cite and explain evidence for the historicity of Jesus Christ, his death, and his resurrection;
- Demonstrate effective responses to common challenges to God's existence;
- Illustrate basic syllogisms to describe and analyze truth claims;
- Classify common objections to God and the Bible;
- Compose a response to an atheist's objections to the reality of God and the Bible;
- Quote two Bible verses from memory: Genesis 1:1 and 2 Peter 1:16.

REQUIRED READING

Geisler, Norman L. and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2004. Print.

One of the following translations of the Bible: ESV, NASB, NIV, NRSV, RSV.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- *Study Guide Answers* (worth 30 points / 30% of grade)
As you read *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, you will answer questions related to the content of each unit/chapter. The questions are designed to encourage interaction with the material and to provide the opportunity to practice apologetic arguments and skills. There are a total of 30 questions. Each response is worth 1 point.

- Assignment 1: Interview an Atheist* (worth 25 points / 25% of grade)
 The purpose of this assignment is to gain understanding of the belief system of an atheist. You will be provided questions for the interview, or you can create your own. You will use information learned in the interview to create a 200-word (minimum) summary of the interviewee's worldview.
- Assignment 2: Interview a Pastor* (worth 25 points / 25% of grade)
 The purpose of this assignment is to discover the most common challenges seekers have in coming to Christian faith. You will interview an experienced pastor and ask him/her for the most common objections a person has for the existence of God or the reliability of the Bible. You will write a summary of the interview and respond to three of the most common objections using information learned from this course. Your entire response must be a minimum of 400 words.
- Final Exam* (worth 20 points / 20% of grade)
 The Final Exam consists of true/false, multiple-choice questions and Scripture memorization. The final will help measure your understanding of course concepts.

Summary of Assignments and Grading		
Study Guide Answers	30 points	30%
Interview an atheist	25 points	25%
Interview a pastor	25 points	25%
Final Exam	20 points	20%
Total	100 points	100%