



Syllabus

THE 296: Introduction to Apologetics **Genesis Bible Institute**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1 Peter 3:15 tells us to always be “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (ESV). Christian apologetics is, simply put, a defense or explanation of why we believe Christianity is true and other beliefs are false. This course explores the purpose, functions and techniques of apologetics and its role in Christianity and evangelism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of what apologetics is and its purpose in discussions about Christian beliefs;
- Describe the functions of apologetics;
- Identify the use of apologetics in the Bible;
- Explain and demonstrate the five dominant approaches for constructing apologetic arguments;
- Identify and respond to common objections to the use of apologetics;
- Form a biblical case for the use of apologetics;
- Recognize the dynamics of apologetic dialogue and adjust appropriately in the role of pastor or missionary;
- Analyze a sermon to identify any use of apologetics;
- Quote two Bible verses from memory: 1 Peter 3:15-16.

REQUIRED READING

Study Guide: An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. Print.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- *Study Guide Answers* (worth 30 points / 30% of grade)
The Study Guide consists of 6 units. You will examine issues related to Christian apologetics and reply to a total of 30 questions. Each question is worth 1 point. Responses must be a minimum of 30 words.
- *Assignment 1: Short Essay Responses* (worth 30 points / 30% of grade)



You will compose 10 short essays (minimum 100 words for each essay) that analyzes and weighs the evidence of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Each essay response is worth 3 points.

- *Assignment 2: Observation* (worth 10 points / 10% of grade)
This assignment gives you the opportunity to apply what you have learned in this course to a real-life situation. You will observe a sermon and analyze how the speaker uses apologetics in his message. You will then write a 200-word (minimum) essay on your experience.
- *Final Exam* (worth 30 points / 30% of grade)
The Final Exam consists of true/false, multiple-choice and scripture memory questions. Each true/false and multiple-choice question is worth 1 point each and the two scripture memory verses are worth 5 points each. Please note that the scripture memory verses are worth 10 points, which equals 10% of your total grade for this course. In other words, if you do not commit these two verses to memory, you will be unable to receive an "A" for the course.

Summary of Assignments and Grading		
Study Guide Answers	30 points	30%
Short Essay Responses	30 points	30%
Observation	10 points	10%
Final Exam	30 points	30%
Total	100 points	100%