
The mission of Genesis is to prepare humble hearts to begin again. Our vision is to empower our graduates to fulfill God-sized dreams according to his purpose.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, you will study various approaches to apologetic methodology and examine current issues in apologetics. You will learn how to use questions to develop logical arguments and use them in rhetoric and dialogue.

I. Prerequisites

None

II. Measurable Learning Outcomes

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

- Recite from memory 2 Corinthians 5:20
- Explain the Ambassador Model of evangelism;
- Explain the Ambassador's creed;
- Describe the steps of the Columbo strategy;
- Display an engaging, disarming style in the face of objections;
- Apply principles of sound reasoning and clear thinking;
- Manage the details/direction of a dialogue;
- Analyze arguments to determine weaknesses;
- Defend specific types of attacks on Christianity;
- Evaluate a non-Christian's worldview in a conversational setting;
- Create a defense plan for non-Christian challenges.

III. Required Resources

Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 2009. Print.

Lewis, C.S. *More Christianity* (any edition will suffice)

IV. Recommended Resources

None

V. Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Learning Activities

Pre/Post Apologetic Response Inventory (Modules 1 and 6)

Before you read the first chapter of *Tactics* you will complete a brief exercise that will record your current responses to situations where apologetics are called for. You will then complete the same exercise upon completing Module 6. Scoring is based on completion for the pre-inventory and on answer quality for the post-inventory.

Foundational Knowledge

In each module, you will complete 10 multiple-choice questions worth 1 point each and one short-answer (100 words or less) questions worth 10 points each. These questions are designed to build your foundational knowledge of course contents.

Practical Application

You will also respond to one long-answer (200-300 words) question in each module. This question is worth 20 points and will ask you to apply foundational knowledge to real-life situations.

Scripture Memorization

You will be memorizing 2 Corinthians 5:20 in this course. God's word is central to the life of every Christian, guiding and directing decisions, behaviors, values, and vision. Therefore, Genesis requires learners to memorize Scripture throughout their degree programs. Invest time every day to hide God's Word in your heart.

B. Book Critique

You will submit a critical evaluation of C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. The book critique, which is due at the end of Module 3, must be a minimum of 1000 words and must conform to MLA standards. See "How to Write Book Critiques" in the *Genesis Writer's Manual* for additional help.

C. Portfolio Project: Using the Columbo Tactics (worth 300 points/30% of grade)

Each master's course at Genesis College and Seminary requires students to create a project that contributes to his or her Ministry Portfolio. A Ministry Portfolio is a usable, functioning body of work that demonstrates a student's leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities.

In this course, your Portfolio Project will demonstrate three important skills:

1. Your ability to defend the faith.
2. Your skills in self-assessment and reflection.
3. Your skills in adjusting, improving, and preparing for your next opportunity to defend the faith.

Requirements:

This project requires you to have three separate discussions with nonbelievers. You will speak with three different people. In each discussion, you will practice the skills taught in Konkl's *Tactics*. After each discussion, you will engage in self-assessment as you reflect upon the interactions. You will then decide how you can adjust and improve your skills. The details concerning what you will submit for *each* discussion/assessment/adjustment are as follows:

You will start by finding three people with whom you are comfortable and can have a frank discussion. Let the people know that you are taking a master's course and you need to practice some discussion skills.

Review the assorted strategies you have read about in *Tactics* prior to your discussion. Pay particular attention to the first two steps of Columbo. Throughout the talk, remember that you are not trying to win; you are just attempting to "put a stone in his or her shoe." Please display grace, kindness, and patience to your discussion partner.

D. Final Exam

The Final Exam consists of material from the module presentations and assigned reading. The purpose of the exam is to measure your knowledge of course material.

A Final Exam Review is presented in Module 6 to help prepare you for the test. The exam will be administered after all 6 modules have been completed.