Course Syllabus
Introduction to Christian Apologetics: The Art and Science of Christian Persuasion
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Andy Bannister, PhD,
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Office Hours:	By appointment

Course Identification

Course Number:	WYT2620HS
Course Format:	*Online*
Course Name:	Introduction to Christian Apologetics: The Art and Science of Christian Persuasion
Course Location:	Wycliffe College
Class Times:	12 week, online
Prerequisites:	None

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Christian apologetics and its relationship to evangelism. The course will teach the biblical, theological and historical foundations of Christian apologetics. Additionally, the course will serve as a primer of cultural exegesis and cultural hermeneutics, the goal of which is to equip students with the critical analytical tools to engage contemporary of cultural issues as the relate to matters of faith. Topics include comparative worldview, science and faith, secularism, aesthetics and ethics. Through required and recommended readings, group discussions and lectures the student will gain a clearer understanding of how to navigate and respond pastorally to some of today's most challenging issues while at the same time formulating a cohesive Christian response to them.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- Andy Bannister, *The Atheist Who Didn't Exist* (Monarch Books, 2015)
- McGrath, Alister E. *Mere Apologetics : How to Help Seekers and Skeptics Find Faith.* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.)
- Morley, Brian. *Mapping Apologetics : Comparing Contemporary Approaches*. (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2015)

Course Website(s)

- Quercus https://q.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask the registrars office for further help.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
Will have begun to learn how to integrate mind, heart and imagination in the communication of the Christian message	Readings, lectures, assignments	M.Div: 2.1 MTS: 1.2, 2.1
Will have begun to develop an ability to articulate the Gospel in ways which connect with people of other faith traditions and those who are of no tradition.	Readings, lectures, assignments	M.Div: 2.2, 2.3 MTS: 2.1
Will have come to understand Christianity as a worldview, addressing the major questions of life in relation to challenges of contemporary culture.	Readings, journal, lectures.	M.Div: 1.6 MTS: 1.4, 3.1

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas:

(1) Discussion Board Participation (20%) – Students will participate weekly in the online discussion board on Quercus.

(2) Book Report (20%) – (5 pages double spaced) Students are expected to submit a book report on any book listed in the required or extended reading list.

(3) Interview (10%) – (3 pages double spaced) Students are to interview someone from another worldview of their choice and summarize their answers to the four great questions: origin, identity,

meaning/purpose, and destiny. Anonymized summaries will be posted to the discussion forum and form the basis for the discussion the following week.

(4) Reflection Journal **(20%) (5 pages double spaced) The student is required to journal their experience from course readings, discussion boards and the interview. This can include actually learning moments, interactions with other students or professors and the overall spiritual/educational impact the various elements had.**

(5) Final paper **(30%) – A final paper (10 pages double spaced) on a topic related to the course. Topics must be approved and agreed upon by the course instructor.**

Grading System

> A+ (90-100)
> A (85-89)
> A- (80-84)
> B+ (77-79)
> B (73-76)
> B- (70-72)
> Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

1. <u>**Apologetics: Why do you need it? Biblical Mandate, Theology, History**</u>

   - Alister McGrath, *Mere Apologetics*

   - Wright, N.T., *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*

2. <u>**Comparative Apologetics**</u>

- Stanley Gundry & Steven B Cowan, *Five Views on Apologetics*

3. **Comparative Worldviews**

- Abdu Murray, *Grand Central Question*

- Ellis Potter, *Three Theories of Everything*

- James Sire, *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*

4. **Case Study: Contemporary Atheism**

- Luc Ferry, *A Brief History of Thought*

- John Lennox, *Gunning for God*

- John Gray, *Seven Types of Atheism*

- Alister McGrath, *The Twilight of Atheism*

5. **Case Study: Islam**

- Nick Chatrath, *Reaching Muslims*

- Peter Riddell & Peter Cotterell, *Islam in Context*

- Andrew Rippin, *Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*

- Richard Shumack, The *Wisdom of Islam and the Foolishness of Christianity*

6. **Do all religions lead to God?**

- Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus Amongst Other Gods*

7. **Has Science Buried God?**

- David Hutchings and Tom McLeish, *Let There Be Science!*

- John Lennox, *God's Undertaker*

- J. P. Moreland, *Scientism and Secularism*

- Francis Collins, *Language of God*

8. **Problem of Evil and Suffering**

- Stephen T. Davis, *Encountering Evil*

- Sharon Dirckx, *Why?*

- Os Guinness, *Unspeakable*

- C. S Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

9. **What does it mean to be human? Sexuality, AI, and Morality**

- Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together*

10. **The Bible**

- Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*

- Amy Orr-Ewing, *Can We Trust the Bible?*

- Peter J. Williams, *Can We Trust the Gospels?*

11. **Jesus**

- Tim Keller, *King's Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus*

- John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

- N. T. Wright, *Simply Jesus*

12. **Practical Approaches: How Do We Use (and Teach Others To Use) Apologetics as an Evangelistic Tool**

- Doug Pollock, *Godspace*

- Greg Koukl, *Tactics*

- Randy Newman, *Questioning Evangelism*

- John Stackhouse, *Humble Apologetics*

Extended Bibliography

Boa, Kenneth and Robert Bowman, Jr*. Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.

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Course Syllabus Template
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Chan, Francis, and Preston Sprinkle. *Erasing Hell*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2011.

Cook, David. *Blind Alley Beliefs*. New Edition. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Cowan, Steven, ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith*. Third Edition Wheaton: Crossway, 2008.

Dawkins, Richard. *The God Delusion*. London: Transworld, 2006.

Evans, C. Stephen. *Philosophy of Religion: Thinking About Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1982.

Groothuis, Douglas. *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2009.

Lennox, John. *Gunning for God*. Oxford: Lion, 2011.

Lewis, C. S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York: Harper-Collins, 1996.

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Moreland, J.P., and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Naugle, David. *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Plantinga, Alvin. *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion and Naturalism*. Oxford: OUP, 2011.
Plantinga, Alvin. *God, Freedom and Evil*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.

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Sire, James. *Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept*. Downers Grove: IVP 2004.

Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door*. Fifth Edition Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Stackhouse, John. *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today*. New York and Oxford: OUP, 2002.

Stackhouse, John. *No Other Gods Before Me? Evangelicals and the Challenge of World Religions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Swinburne, Richard. *Is There a God?* Revised ed. Oxford: OUP, 2010.

Swinburne, Richard. *The Evolution of the Soul*, 1997.

Ward, Keith. *Why There Almost Certainly is a God*. Oxford: Lion, 2008