

Syllabus for  
**GTHE 624—Christian Apologetics**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of classical apologetical systems to determine their coherency and/or adequacy as defenses for the Christian faith. Specific attention is focused upon presuppositional Apologetics.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study the history of Christian apologetics.
- B. Study the fundamental issues related to the various methodologies employed in Christian apologetics.
- C. Provide an analysis and evaluation of the various contemporary efforts in apologetics.
- D. Learn to develop a comprehensive approach to Christian apologetics.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Explain the importance of synthesizing previously conveyed facts into a consistent Christian system.
- B. Envision and discuss the most desirable Christian system within the historical development of competing Christian systems.
- C. Articulate the apologetic most compatible with all facts and with the power of the Holy Spirit, the only resource for truly understanding even one fact of human existence.
- D. Present and discuss a survey of the major thinkers and writings in the area of study.
- E. Analyze effectively and discuss the distinctive approaches of major apologetics.
- F. Develop and discuss a personal approach to the apologetic task.
- G. Demonstrate an adequate grasp of course lecture materials and readings through written examinations.
- H. Articulate the specifics of the Christian belief system within contemporary society.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

##### A. Required Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

Edgar William and K. Scott Oliphint . *Christian Apologetics Past and Present: A Primary Source Reader* (Volume 2, From 1500) Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011. ISBN:978-1-58134-907-8

Frame, John. *Apologetics to the Glory of God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 1994. ISBN: 9780875522432

Van Til, Cornelius. *Christian Apologetics*. 2nd 3d. Phillipsburg, NJ: P and R, 2003. ISBN: 9780875525112

###### 2. Other

None

##### B. Optional Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

None

###### 2. Other

None

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above

infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. School of Theology Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and is penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.

4. **Attendance**

The Official Attendance Policy for the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week:
  - (1) Missing of 6 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade.
  - (2) Missing 8 class sessions results in a grade reduction of two letter grades.
  - (3) Missing 12 class sessions automatically results in a grade of F.
- b. If the class meets twice a week:
  - (1) Missing of 4 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade.
  - (2) Missing 6 class sessions results in a grade reduction of two letter grades.
  - (3) Missing 8 class sessions automatically results in a grade of F.
- c. If the class meets once a week:
  - (1) Missing of 2 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade.
  - (2) Missing 3 class sessions results in a grade reduction of two letter grades.
  - (3) Missing 4 class sessions automatically results in a grade of F.
- d. The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.
- e. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- f. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- g. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- h. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to [www.studentresources.oru.edu](http://www.studentresources.oru.edu).

C. **Course Policies and Procedures**

1. **Evaluation Procedures**

- a. **Grading:**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Quizzes        | 10% |
| Midterm Exam   | 30% |
| Research Paper | 30% |
| Final Exam     | 30% |
- b. **Grading scale:**
  - A=90-100%
  - B=80-89%
  - C=70-79%
  - D=60-69%
  - F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
  - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
  - b. WPA requirements for this course:
    - (1) The Research Paper for GTHE 624 must be uploaded to the student’s ePortfolio.
    - (2) The Research Paper is a required artifact for the M.A. Theological/Historical Studies degree program.
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
  - a. “Consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, ORU ensures that no *qualified individual* is denied reasonable accommodation in the form of modification of policies, practices and/or procedures.” Any student with disabilities wishing to access services should contact the student’s professor(s) and the Office of Disability Services to initiate the process.
  - b. Students are required to complete reading assignments for every class, arriving prepared to be quizzed orally or in written form.
  - c. Additional study material may be handed out in class.
  - d. There are two examinations: a midterm and a comprehensive final.
  - e. One 12- to 15-page research paper corresponding to the required apologetic rubric. Specific guidelines are provided in class. All work is due at the beginning of the designated class period.
  - f. Some additional reading from original sources in the library may form part of the reading material for the course.
  - g. Course requirements do not necessarily constitute requirements for an approved “Incomplete.” Make-up exams are comprehensive, without reviews. Late exams are penalized 10%.
  - h. Please do not bring food to class.
  - i. There are grade penalties for excessive absences and tardiness.
  - j. All papers are to be submitted electronically on D2L.
  - k. Students are to be intentional in checking their University e-mail and D2L site.

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

| Week | Assignment                                       | Edgar    |
|------|--|----------|
| 1    | Introduction                                     | Chs. 1-2 |
| 2    | Van Til, <i>Apologetics</i> , 1-30               | 3-4      |
| 3    | Van Til, <i>Apologetics</i> , 31-60              | 5-6      |
| 4    | Van Til, <i>Apologetics</i> , 61-99              | 7-8      |
| 5    | Introduction to Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 1-30 | 9-10     |
| 6    | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 31-56                | 11-12    |
| 7    | <b>Midterm Exam</b>                              | 13-14    |
| 8    | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 57-88                | 15-16    |
| 9    | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 89-118               | 17-18    |
| 10   | <b>Spring Break</b>                              |          |
| 11   | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 119-148              | 19-20    |
| 12   | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 149-170              | 21-22    |

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Assignment</b>                            | <b>Edgar</b> |
|-------------|--|--------------|
|             | <b>Paper Due</b>                             |              |
| 13          | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 171-190          | 23-24        |
| 14          | Frame, <i>Apologetics</i> , 191-202, 219-248 | 25-26        |
| 15          | Open   | 27-28        |

**Final Exam** (university schedule)

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Arts in Theological/Historical Studies**  
**GTHE 624—Christian Apologetics**      **Dr. James Breckenridge, Instructor**  
**Spring 2012**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Arts in Theological/Historical Studies degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution**—Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution**—Does not address the outcome.

| Degree Program Outcomes  | Significant Contribution                   | Moderate Contribution | Minimal Contribution | No Contribution |
|--|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>Theological Perspective</b>             |                       |                      |                 |
| Articulate the specifics of a Christian theological perspective within the contemporary social context.  | X  |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>Reformation Traditions</b>              |                       |                      |                 |
| Demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of Christian tradition during specific time periods.  | X  |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>Development of Doctrine</b>             |                       |                      |                 |
| Demonstrate basic knowledge of key theologians and the development of doctrine within the history of Christianity.   |  | X                     |                      |                 |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>Specialized Research</b>                |                       |                      |                 |
| Research specialized topics in history and theology of the Christian Church in a manner that demonstrates critical thinking, historical integration, and theological reflection. |  | X                     |                      |                 |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>French/German Language</b>              |                       |                      |                 |
| Translate Scripture and historical documents in either French or German on an entry level.   |  |                       |                      | X               |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>Pentecostal/Charismatic Foundations</b> |                       |                      |                 |
| Demonstrate awareness of Pentecostal/Charismatic distinctions and historical development.  |  |                       | X                    |                 |
| <b>7</b>   | <b>Academic Thesis</b>                     |                       |                      |                 |
| Critically utilize theological/historical study to produce an acceptable academic thesis.  | X  |                       |                      |                 |