

Syllabus for  
**THE 415—Christian Apologetics**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Spring 2021

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the methods of defending the Christian faith in the midst of a pluralistic modern society.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to help the student do the following:

- A. Learn basic Christian beliefs about God and the cosmos.
- B. Study the dominate worldviews of the surrounding Western culture.
- C. Develop or enhance a Christian world-view.
- D. Learn to identify the presuppositions of the various worldviews as these presuppositions appear in popular culture such as movies, books, art, etc.
- E. Develop a greater global ecumenical experience, which is a superordinate goal of ORU: ORU exists to serve the whole Body of Christ, worldwide. It is not concerned with changing the church allegiance of its students; rather, it seeks to bring all students into a more personal, vital relationship with Christ, to assist them in receiving Christ as their personal Savior, to acquaint them more fully with the charismatic power of the Holy Spirit, to encourage them to release their prayer language of the Spirit (private devotional tongues with interpretation), and to acquaint them with the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit through their personal witness for Christ. ORU also seeks to give them a clearer understanding of the unlimited Christ and the principles of IN THE NOW Christian living and to send them back to their own church as more committed and understanding disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord. (ORU Catalog 1995-97, p27)

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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

- A. List and describe the major worldviews as found in contemporary Western culture.
- B. Compare and contrast Christianity with other world-views.
- C. Critique the presuppositions of contemporary Western worldviews including:
  - 1. Naturalistic materialism.
  - 2. Social-construct epistemology.
  - 3. Language manipulation.
- D. Critique and evaluate various models of cosmology including:
  - 1. Big-bang theory.
  - 2. Stasis universe.

3. Oscillating universe.
- E. Critique and evaluate various models of the development of life including:
    1. Young earth versus old earth views of creation.
    2. Macro- versus micro-evolution.
    3. Theistic evolution.
  - F. Communicate the Christian faith within the framework of a consistent apologetical approach that defends without offending.
  - G. Present the rationality of the acceptance of the idea that God is working in history with miracles.
  - H. Demonstrate the essentially charismatic character of historic Christianity.
    1. Creation and naturalistic materialism.
    2. Present an informed and sensitive defense (Greek *apologia*) of the Gospel in contemporary culture.
  - I. Reproduce from memory the Nicene Creed and explain its tenets.
  - J. Compare and contrast the Christologies of heterodoxy and orthodoxy.
  - K. Present the major arguments for the existence of God noting their strengths and weaknesses.
  - M. Memorize selected Scripture passages.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING

##### RESOURCES

##### A. Required Materials

###### Textbooks:

House, H. Wayne. *Background Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. ISBN 0-310-41661-2

Kreeft, P. and Tacelli, R. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1994. ISBN: 978-0830817740

House, H. W. and Holden, J. M. *Charts of Apologetics and Christian Evidences* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN 978-0-310-21937-8

##### B. Recommended Texts:

Lamp, Jeffrey S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2011.

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

- 1.
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 Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an Whole Person Assessment artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

## B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
  - a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
  - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.
2. Incompletes
  - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her 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 will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other

absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least 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 appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
    - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
    - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
    - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
    - d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
    - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
  4. Attendance Policy
    - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows:
      - (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
      - (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
      - (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
    - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)** Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
    - c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures—grading
  - a. Two Unit Examinations 36%
  - b. Paper/Presentation 18%
  - c. Reading Reports 18%

- d. Scripture Memory 10%
  - e. Final Examination 18%
  - f. Extra-credit Book Report 10%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None

# I. COURSE CALENDAR

Numbers refer to chapters

<u>Week</u>	<u>K &amp; T</u>	<u>House Chart #</u>	<u>Scripture Memory</u>
1	1	1, 7	Rom 1:20
2	2	2, 6, 17	1 Pet. 3:15
3	3	15, 16	Ps. 14:1
4	4	13, 14, 18-26	Isa. 42:8
5	5	81-90 41-43	Gen 1:1
6	6	44-45	Jas. 1:13
7	7	27-33	Jn. 1:1
8	8	34	1 Cor. 15:4-5, 17
9	9	8-12	2 Tim. 3:16-17
10	10		Jn. 3:16
11	11	71-82	2 Thess. 2:15
12	12	88-89	1 Tim. 3:15
13	13	53-70	Rom. 10:9
14	14		Jas. 2:18, 20
15	15		Rev. 22:17

## Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

### THE 415 – Christian Apologetics Spring 2018

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes 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.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability	X			
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Informational literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives			X	
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills			X	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	