Special Studies in Evangelism: Apologetics  
EV 521  
Spring 2011: Thursday, 2:00-5:00 pm, Winters Room  
Professor: David Erickson  
derickson@bmats.edu (903) 795-3677

Course Description

This course allows a student to explore different emphases in evangelism as applied to different age groups, cults, world religions, or as applied in specialized geographical settings. Particular goals, skills, and requirements may be selected according to the individual needs of the student. This particular session will focus on developing a Biblical philosophy of, and skills in, basic apologetics. Evangelism 311 is a prerequisite. Students will serve as trainers during all OJT sessions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course the student should:

1) Objective: Demonstrate the ability to answer common objections raised when giving a Gospel presentation.
   Acquisition: The student will complete weekly readings in Evangelism Explosion, participate in weekly class discussions, lead witnessing teams during on-the-job-training, and making notes in the Level III Notebook.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation, quizzes, the completion of the Level III Notebook, and passing the final exam.

2) Objective: Have the ability to train others to respond to common objections to a Gospel presentation.
   Acquisition: The student will complete weekly readings in Evangelism Explosion, participate in weekly class discussions, lead witnessing teams during on-the-job-training, make notes in the Level III Notebook, and read Every Thought Captive.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation, quizzes, the completion of the Level III Notebook, passing the final exam, and answering the review questions in Every Thought Captive.

3) Objective: Have the ability to respond to sophisticated or rarer objections to the Gospel or Christianity.
   Acquisition: The student will complete weekly readings in the Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics, participate in class discussions, read Apologetics to the Glory of God, and engage in additional self-directed reading in the field of apologetics.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation, the completion of a critical book review of Apologetics to the Glory of God that successfully meets the criteria in the grading rubric, and the completion of summaries of the self-directed reading.
Course Texts


Course Requirements

1. **Exam**
   There is one (1) exam at the end of the course. This final exam is worth 20% of your final grade. The exam may be written, oral, or both.

2. **Quizzes**
   There are weekly reading assignments from *Evangelism Explosion* and *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Oral or written quizzes over this reading or material previously studied from the *Level III Notebook* may be given at the beginning of a class session.

3. **Notebook**
   Your *Evangelism Explosion Level III Notebook* will be used throughout the lecture portion of the course. A completed notebook with all questions answered must be submitted on May 5.

4. **Reading**
   There are three reading assignments due during the semester:

   After reading *Every Thought Captive*, answer the review questions at the end of chapters 1-13. Answers must be submitted typewritten and double-spaced. These answers are due February 24.

   After reading *Apologetics to the Glory of God*, write a six (6) page double-spaced book review. A book review should include: a brief introduction, possibly with biographical information on the author (1 page or less), a summary of the book’s contents (3 pages), critical reflection on the book (2 pages), and a brief conclusion (1 paragraph). A book review should include full bibliographic information for the book reviewed at the top of
the first page. Quotations or references to the book should be made with parenthetical page citations. See the sample book review in the Syllabi section of the website for additional guidance. This book review is due March 24.

Students must read an additional 500 pages of apologetics related material of their choice. Journal articles count as 2 pages for each page read, as do double-columned books (such as *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*). Students must submit a ten (10) page double-spaced summary and review of the material read. Include full bibliographic information and pages read for each source used. The summary of this reading is due April 28.

**Course Grades**

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<tr>
<td>Notebook</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Exam</td>
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The seminary’s standardized grading scale will be followed in assigning final grades:

- A  91-100%
- B  81-90%
- C  71-80%
- D  61-70%
- F  0-61%

**Course Policies**

1. **Attendance**
   Students are expected to attend every class session. More than one unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction. Under certain circumstances, such as the severe illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member or your own illness or injury, every effort will be made to accommodate you, provided you contact the professor to explain your situation. Additionally, it is recognized that many of you are engaged in professional Christian ministry, which will sometimes intrude on your academic life. The professor will try to accommodate the needs of your people as you attempt to balance the needs of ministry and study.

2. **Deadlines**
   You are expected to adhere to all deadlines without fail. Late work is automatically worth zero points. You have been informed of the various due dates well in advance and are expected to meet them regardless of any personal impediments. Deadlines are a fact of life. You can choose to plan ahead so that you meet them, or you can be content with the mediocrity of last-minute work. Either way, you still have to be on time.

3. **Academic Integrity**
   The sanctity of truth is central to those who believe in a God who cannot lie and who forbids false witness. Academic honesty is the application in the academic world of the sanctity of truth. A student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student personally has done that work and that it has not been
submitted for credit in any other course without permission. Unless credit is explicitly
given to sources, the student is asserting that the words and/or the thoughts are the
student's own original work. Academic dishonesty is falling short of these standards. It
includes, but is not limited to: cheating, submitting work which was prepared by another
person, not giving credit on papers to sources, and submitting without approval work
originally prepared by the student for another course.

4. **Special Needs**
   Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for
   exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the professor at the
   beginning of the course in order for special arrangements to be considered.

5. **Syllabus Disclaimer**
   This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the course description, content outline,
   objectives, grading scale, attendance requirements, and other information necessary for
   students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term the professor
   reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because
   of events and circumstances that change during the semester. All such modifications will
   occur during a regularly scheduled class meeting.
January 27  Introduction to course

February 3  Unit 1: I don’t believe the Bible
           Reading: EE 145-158
                    Bible, Alleged Errors in (74-80)
                    Bible, Evidence for (91-96)

February 10 Unit 2: I don’t believe in the existence of God
           Reading: EE 161, 164-165
                    God, Evidence for (276-283)
                    God, Objections to Proofs for (289-296)

February 17 Unit 3: My God isn’t like that
           Reading: EE 162, 176
                    Morality, Absolute Nature of (501-502)
                    Universalism (746-750)

February 24 Unit 4: I don’t believe in life after death
           Reading: EE 167-170
                    Immortality (350-355)
           Due: Answers to review questions in *Every Thought Captive*

March 3  Unit 5: Are the heathen lost?
           Reading: EE 162-166
                    “Heathen,” Salvation of (303-307)
                    Infants, Salvation of (360-366)

March 10 Unit 6: What about all the hypocrites in churches?
           Reading: EE 172-173
                    Holy Spirit, Role in Apologetics (330-337)

March 17 Unit 7: Why does God allow suffering?
           Reading: EE 173-174
                    Evil, Problem of (219-224)

March 24 Unit 8: Was Jesus an actual historical person?
           Reading: EE 175-176
                    Christ, Deity of (129-135)
                    Christ of Faith vs. Jesus of History (141-142)
                    Jesus, Non-Christian Sources (381-385)
           Due: Book review of *Apologetics to the Glory of God*
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>Unit 9: I don’t believe in the resurrection of Christ</td>
<td>EE 166-167</td>
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<td>Resurrection, Alternate Theories of (645-647)</td>
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<td>Resurrection, Evidence for (651-656)</td>
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<td>Resurrection, Objections to (657-664)</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>Unit 10: Hell isn’t real</td>
<td>EE 170-171</td>
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<td>Hell (310-315)</td>
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<td>Annihilationism (22-24)</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Unit 11: Religion is a crutch</td>
<td>EE 171-172</td>
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<td>Agnosticism (10-14)</td>
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<td>Atheism (55-58)</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>Unit 12: I’ve always believed that</td>
<td>EE 176-182</td>
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<td>Faith and Reason (239-243)</td>
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<td>Due: Ten page summary of chosen readings</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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