

Preliminary Apologetics Syllabus

Dr. Timothy McGrew, July 2012

Items marked with an asterisk (*) are available online. Items marked with a dagger (†) are works by adversaries of Christianity.

Conversational Apologetics

Mandatory	Greg Koukl, <i>Tactics</i>
Recommended	Norman and David Geisler, <i>Conversational Evangelism</i>
Supplementary	Randy Newman, <i>Questioning Evangelism</i> Randy Newman, <i>Corner Conversations</i>
Reference	

General Bible and Historical Background

Mandatory	* James M. Gray, <i>Primers of the Faith</i> , chs. 1-32 (Part I) * Samuel P. Tregelles, <i>Historic Evidence of the New Testament</i> E. M. Blaiklock, <i>The Compact Handbook of New Testament Life</i>
Recommended	E. M. Blaiklock, <i>The Century of the New Testament</i> Paul Maier, <i>In the Fullness of Time</i> * G. Rawlinson, <i>The Historical Evidences of the Truth of the Scripture Records</i> , ch. 7 * Robert Baker Girdlestone, <i>The Building Up of the Old Testament</i>
Supplementary	* Thomas Cooper, <i>The Bridge of History over the Gulf of Time</i> * Isaac Taylor, <i>History of the Transmission of Ancient Books to Modern Times</i> * Isaac Taylor, <i>The Process of Historical Proof</i>
Reference	* William Binnington Boyce, <i>Introduction to the Study of History</i>

Basic Reasoning Skills in Apologetics

Mandatory	Peter Kreeft, <i>Between Heaven and Hell</i>
Recommended	Peter Kreeft, <i>The Best Things in Life</i> Peter Kreeft, <i>The Unaborted Socrates</i> Peter Kreeft, <i>Socrates Meets Jesus</i>
Supplementary	
Reference	

Positive Biblical Apologetics: Minimal Facts Argument

Mandatory	* C. S. Lewis, "Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism"
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	William Lane Craig, <i>Reasonable Faith</i> , chs. 7 and 8 Terry Miethe, ed., <i>Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?</i> Copan and Tacelli, eds., <i>Jesus' Resurrection: Fact or Figment?</i>
Recommended	Komoshewski, Sawyer and Wallace, <i>Reinventing Jesus</i> Craig A. Evans, <i>Fabricating Jesus</i>
Supplementary	N. T. Wright, <i>The Resurrection of the Son of God</i> William Lane Craig, <i>Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus</i> Mike Licona, <i>The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach</i>
Reference	

Positive Biblical Apologetics: Eyewitness Testimony Argument	
Mandatory	* C. S. Lewis, "Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism" J. W. Montgomery, <i>Where is History Going?</i> , chs. 2 and 3 (Also published separately as <i>Jesus Christ and History</i>) * Edmund Bennett, <i>The Four Gospels from a Lawyer's Standpoint</i> * F. F. Bruce, <i>The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?</i> * William Paley, <i>A View of the Evidences of Christianity</i> , Parts 1 and 2
Recommended	* Thomas Cooper, <i>The Bridge of History over the Gulf of Time</i> * John James Blunt, <i>Undesigned Coincidences</i> , Part 4 Jeffrey Sheller, <i>Is the Bible True?</i> Mark D. Roberts, <i>Can We Trust the Gospels?</i> Richard Bauckham, <i>Jesus and the Eyewitnesses</i> Eddy and Boyd, <i>The Jesus Legend</i> Komoshewski, Sawyer and Wallace, <i>Reinventing Jesus</i> Craig A. Evans, <i>Fabricating Jesus</i>
Supplementary	N. T. Wright, <i>The Resurrection of the Son of God</i>
Reference	* T. H. Horne, <i>An Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures</i> , 8th ed., vols. 1 and 2 * Nathaniel Lardner, <i>Credibility of the Gospel History</i> , 17 vols.

Positive General Apologetics: Orientation	
Mandatory	C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i>
Recommended	Craig and Copan, eds., <i>Contending with Christianity's Critics</i> Sennett and Groothuis, eds., <i>In Defense of Natural Theology: A Post-Humean Assessment</i> Timothy Keller, <i>The Reason for God</i>
Supplementary	
Reference	Craig and Moreland, eds., <i>The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology</i>

Positive General Apologetics: The Kalam Argument	
Mandatory	* William Lane Craig, "The Existence of God and the Beginning of the Universe" William Lane Craig, <i>Reasonable Faith</i> , chs. 3 and 4
Recommended	
Supplementary	William Lane Craig, <i>The Kalam Cosmological Argument</i> Craig and Smith, <i>Theism, Atheism, and Big Bang Cosmology</i>
Reference	William Lane Craig, <i>The Cosmological Argument from Plato to Leibniz</i>

Positive General Apologetics: The Origin of Life	
Mandatory	Stephen Meyer, "The Explanatory Power of Design," in <i>Mere Creation</i> Dean Overman, <i>A Case Against Accident and Self-organization</i>
Recommended	J. P. Moreland, ed., <i>The Creation Hypothesis</i> , ch. 5 C. Thaxton, W. Bradley, and R. Olsen, <i>The Mystery of Life's Origin</i> Robert Shapiro, <i>Origins: A Sceptic's Guide to the Creation of Life on Earth</i> Stephen Meyer, <i>Signature in the Cell</i>
Supplementary	
Reference	

Positive General Apologetics: Intelligent Design	
Mandatory	† Richard Dawkins, <i>The Blind Watchmaker</i> , chs. 1-4 J. P. Moreland, ed., <i>The Creation Hypothesis</i> , Intro. and chs. 1 & 2 Michael Behe, <i>Darwin's Black Box</i> Jonathan Wells, <i>Icons of Evolution</i>
Recommended	William Dembski, ed., <i>Mere Creation</i> Jon Wells, <i>The Politically Incorrect Guide to Darwinism and Intelligent Design</i>
Supplementary	* Tim McGrew, "Toward a Rational Reconstruction of Design Inferences"
Reference	

Positive General Apologetics: The Moral Argument	
Mandatory	C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Book I * Paul Copan, "God, Naturalism, and Morality," from <i>The Future of Atheism</i>
Recommended	C. E. M. Joad, <i>The Recovery of Belief</i> , ch. 3 Mark Linville, "The Moral Poverty of Evolutionary Naturalism," in <i>Contending with Christianity's Critics</i>
Supplementary	
Reference	

Defensive General Apologetics: The Challenge of Naturalistic Science

Mandatory	C. S. Lewis, <i>Miracles: A Preliminary Study</i> , ch. 3 John Lennox, <i>God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?</i>
Recommended	* Arthur James Balfour, <i>The Foundations of Belief</i> , 8th ed.
Supplementary	Rodney Holder, <i>Nothing but Atoms and Molecules?</i>
Reference	

Defensive General Apologetics: The Problem of Evil

Mandatory	† David Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Section X William Lane Craig, <i>Hard Questions, Real Answers</i> , chs. 4 and 5
Recommended	C. S. Lewis, <i>The Problem of Pain</i>
Supplementary	
Reference	

Defensive General Apologetics: The Objection to Miracles

Mandatory	† David Hume, "Of Miracles" * William Adams, <i>An Essay in Answer to Mr. Hume's Essay on Miracles</i> , 3rd ed.
Recommended	* George Campbell, <i>A Dissertation on Miracles</i> Habermas and Geivett, eds., <i>In Defense of Miracles</i>
Supplementary	* John Douglas, <i>The Criterion</i> C. S. Lewis, <i>Miracles: A Preliminary Study</i>
Reference	* Tim McGrew, "Miracles," <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>

Defensive General Apologetics: Other General Objections

Mandatory	
Recommended	Paul Copan, <i>When God Goes to Starbucks</i> William Lane Craig, <i>Hard Questions, Real Answers</i> Craig and Copan, eds., <i>Contending with Christianity's Critics</i>
Supplementary	
Reference	* John Leland, <i>A View of the Principal Deistical Writers</i> , 2 vols. Geisler and Brooks, <i>When Skeptics Ask</i>

Defensive Biblical Apologetics

Mandatory	* Richard Watson, <i>An Apology for the Bible</i>
Recommended	Paul Copan, <i>Is God a Moral Monster?</i> * Joseph Butler, <i>The Analogy of Religion</i>

	* William Paley, <i>A View of the Evidences of Christianity</i> , Part III
Supplementary	* B. F. Westcott, <i>A General Survey of the History of the Canon of the New Testament</i> , 7th ed. Köstenberger and Kruger, <i>The Heresy of Orthodoxy</i> Eddy and Boyd, <i>The Jesus Legend</i>
Reference	* Haley, <i>An Examination of the Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible</i> * Tuck, <i>A Handbook of Biblical Difficulties</i> , 2 vols. * John Thein, <i>The Bible and Rationalism</i> , 4 vols. * T. H. Horne, <i>An Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures</i> , 8th ed., vols. 1 and 2 Gleason Archer, <i>Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties</i> Geisler and Howe, <i>The Big Book of Bible Difficulties</i> Michael Brown, <i>Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus</i> , 5 vols.