Apologetics and Worldview

# Course Schedule

| Week/Instructor | Topic | Class Summary |
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| Week 1/Scott Weber | Introduction to the Christian Worldview (Part 1: Epistemology, Metaphysics, & Meta-ethics) | This introductory class will demonstrate that everyone espouses a worldview by which he interprets and evaluates life and the world. The basic components of a worldview include epistemology, Metaphysics, and Ethics (including Metaethics). A Christian Worldview will be explained and defended. |
| Week 2/Scott Weber | Introduction to the Christian Worldview (Part 2: Presuppositions, Evidence, and the Noetic Effects of Sin) | This introductory class will explain how ultimate presuppositions (or transcendentals) are necessary for creatures. Evidences are important and necessary, but there are no brute facts (except God and his worldview). This is further complicated by the noetic effects of sin on all people. A Christian Worldview will be explained and defended. |
| Week 3/David White | Tactics: Keeping Yourself in the Driver’s Seat in Conversations | An introduction to Greg Kokul's book Tactics and his method of using questions to stay in control of conversations and take the pressure off you when your faith is challenged. |
| Week 4/David White | Why We Believe the Bible (Its Self-authenticating Nature) | The Bible claims to be the word of God, but how can we know whether that claim is true?  What kind of evidence can support such an assertion? |
| Week 5/Jeff Johnston | Why We Believe in Christ and the Resurrection | During this class we will consider why the doctrine of the resurrection of Christ is vital to the Christian’s hope and develop a strategy to present and defend it to our skeptical neighbor and to encourage our wavering or doubting Christian brother. |
| Week 6/Dana Goodnight | Why We Believe the Bible (Fulfilled Prophecy & Christ’s Witness to its truthfulness) | This class will look at the uniqueness of the Bible in terms of the large amount of prewritten history that it contains, along with an amazing number of fulfillments that have already been documented. Specific and detailed prophecies that are fulfilled show that the Bible is much more than a collection of books produced by mere men. Christ’s view of Scripture is ultimately vindicated by his prediction and fulfillment of His own death and resurrection. |
| Week 7/Jeff Johnston | The Moral Argument for the Existence of God | How do we respond to the demand for proof that God even exists?  This class will consider one argument that has been used by many Christian apologists, the Moral Argument for the Existence of God. This argument proposes that (1) if a transcendent moral law exists, there must also be a transcendent moral lawgiver; (2) a transcendent moral law does exist; (3) therefore, a transcendent moral lawgiver must exist. We will then discuss the reality that the true and living God of the Bible is that transcendent moral lawgiver. |
| Week 8/David White | The Problem of Evil | An examination of different ways Christians can answer the accusation that the existence of evil proves that an omnipotent, loving God does not exist. |
| Week 9/Dana Goodnight | Scientific Apologetics: Creation & Evolution, Naturalism, Intelligent Design | This course will seek to introduce the topics of the compatibility of science and Christianity; how the issue of origins differs from other areas of science; and how science provides a very strong case for theism and creation, over against naturalism and Darwinism. |
| Week 10/Dana Goodnight | Scientific Apologetics: Genesis, the Bible, and Science | This course will continue to look at the issue of origins as it relates to the claims of Scripture and in particular the Book of Genesis. Scientific challenges to the clear statements made in the Book of Genesis will be addressed. Biblical authority in areas of history and origins will be explored as well as the relationship of presuppositions to the interpretation of earth history. The folly of attempting to understand the true history of the world without acknowledging and submitting to Scripture will be discussed. |
| Week 11/Scott Weber | Mormonism | This class will detail a broad overview of the Mormon worldview, beginning with introduction to the origin of the religion but focusing on the “Plan of Eternal Progression.” Theological terminology confusion will be addressed. |
| Week 12/Jeff Johnston | Other Cults & Worldviews for Further Study | This class will serve as a summary and conclusion to our study of apologetics.  We will develop a framework for comparing any counterfeit worldview with that of Biblical Christianity. |

**Additional Comments/Questions**:

Classes could include:

1. The nature of reality
2. Creation v. Evolution
3. The nature of knowledge
4. The Bible and Science
5. The Effects of a Worldwide flood
6. The nature of ethics
7. The Moral Argument for God’s Existence
8. Mormonism and Jehovah’s Witness (Scott Weber)
9. Politics, environmentalism, and Extraterrestrial UFO’s as Religion
10. Islam
11. Eastern religions
12. Atheism and Agnosticism
13. The case for Christ’s Resurrection
14. Can the Bible be trusted?
15. Miracles
16. The Problem of Evil

*Christian Apologetics to the Glory of God*, John Frame