



River City School of Leadership

Syllabus for **THE 203 Apologetics**

Professor

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the nature and importance of Christian apologetics in defending the faith. Students will study the major issues one encounters when presenting and defending the Christian faith in our contemporary culture, with particular attention given to biblical reliability, the relationship of science and Christianity, the existence of God, problems of evil, and the uniqueness of Christ.

II. COURSE GOALS & OUTCOMES

In order to obey the biblical mandate found in 1 Peter 3:15, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Understand the importance of apologetics for defending the faith.
2. Learn different apologetic strategies for engaging unbelievers with the gospel.
3. Develop responses to the most problematic questions that unbelievers (and many believers) have about the Christian faith.
4. Be able to present and defend the Christian faith clearly and rationally.
5. To correctly handle the Word of God, understand it, apply it, and proclaim it.

III. TEXTBOOK(S)

Holy Bible (instructor will most often refer to CSB, HCSB, KJV)

A Student's Guide to Apologetics. Nichols, Stephen J. Scotland, UK: Christian Focus Publications LTD, 2023, 93 pages.

No God But One Allah or Jesus?. Qureshi, Nabeel. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016, 316 pages.

Systematic Lectures on Christian Apologetics. Lantz, Charles Craig. Michigan: Sophia's House Publications, 2019, 329 pages.

IV. ASSIGNMENT & DUE DATES

A. Online Discussion (35%), Every Sunday

Every Monday a discussion question will be posted by the professor under the "Discussions" portion of the online class portal. Provide a six to eight sentence response to that question by Sunday. Additionally, read and review the comments of your classmates. The student is required to respond to at least two fellow student's discussion post. This weekly assignment is designed to facilitate an online dialogue that enables student to glean from one another.

B. Apologist Preparation Essay (25%)

This essay is about preparing to become an apologist based on Charles Lantz' book, *Systematic Lectures on Christian Apologetics*, using pages 117-128) The student must identify the spiritual and practical preparation required of them to become an apologist.

Create the essay in paragraph style. Three paragraphs are to be about the spiritual preparation that the student needs to address in their pursuit of becoming an apologist. Then the student is to write an additional three paragraphs on the practical preparation that the student must work on in the pursuit of becoming an apologist.

Please ensure correct spelling and that a total of six paragraphs are provided for the essay. Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the "Assessment" portion of the online class portal.

C. *No God But One Allah or Jesus?* Essay (20%)

No God But One Allah or Jesus? provides evidence and investigates the argument for Islam and Christianity. After reading this book, written by a former Muslim, it will have helped provide evidence to help the student better defend the Christian faith.

The textbook will provide the student with evidence to demonstrate the differences between Islam and Christianity. The evidence in the book gives a number of areas to help the student defend the Christian faith vs. Islam. The student is to prepare a 600–750-word essay written in MLA format using the evidence and information gleaned

from this book. The intent is for the student to utilize the evidence provided in the book to help the student defend the Christian faith against Islam.

Submit your essay in a Word or PDF document under the “Assessment” portion of the online class portal.

D. Exam (20%)

The student may complete the exam at one’s convenience during that time period. The exam is found under the “Quiz” section of the online portal. A study guide will be provided; however the exam is closed book, which means that no study materials may be referenced while taking the exam.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Grades and Assessments

1. Grading Scale

- A 90 - 100%
- B 80 - 89%
- C 70 - 79%
- D 60 - 69%
- F 59% and below

2. Percentage of Final Grade per Assessment & Due Date

- a) Online Discussion (35%) Every Sunday
- b) Apologist Preparation Essay (25%)
- c) *No God But One Allah or Jesus?* Essay (20%)
- d) Final Exam (20%)

B. Correspondence

All correspondence with professors should be done through the email address provided in this syllabus.

C. Academic Honesty

1. Plagiarism is copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structures and submitting them as one's own, which is claiming the work of others as your own without specific acknowledgment. It is always required that a student cite resources used in any paper that is written. Both students and faculty at River City School of Leadership are expected to deal ethically with other's materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software.
2. Collaboration (e.g. writing a paper with someone else so that the resulting paper is not the product of the person turning it in) is not permitted unless specifically allowed by the instructor. Unless noted on the course syllabus a student should assume that the required work is meant to represent their own efforts. It is permissible to have a proofreader review one's paper and comment on the grammar and general paper structure; however, the thought and content of the paper must be the student's.

D. Late Assignment Policy

For each week that an assignment is late, it will receive a 10% grade deduction. An assignment will be considered late unless the student has prior permission from the instructor for a later due date. No homework will be accepted after the end of the term. Additional points can be docked by the teacher for not meeting assignment requirements or standards.

Example:

- 1-7 Days Late – Maximum Grade 90
- 8-14 Days Late – Maximum Grade 80
- 15-21 Days Late – Maximum Grade 70
- 22-28 Days Late – Maximum Grade 60
- 29+ Days Late – Maximum Grade 59

E. Absenteeism

An absentee is defined as not being present in-person or online when a class is being taught. Students are allowed to miss a **maximum** of three absences total per course in each semester. If a student misses more than three classes, they will be given an "I" (Incomplete) for the course. These three absences can be made up if a student watches/listens to the full video/audio content of a class that they missed, writes a 250-word response to the class video that was watched/listened to, and sends the notification

and the response to River City by email (info@rivercityschool.com) that they have made up the absence, noting the date of the absence. The latest a student can submit an email to this effect is the day following the last class of that semester.

F. Tardiness

When attending an online class via Zoom, if a student joins 10 minutes or later after the start of the class, a Tardy will be noted for that week's attendance.

G. Zoom Protocol

When attending a River City class that is held via Zoom, students are expected to adhere to the following protocol. The camera must be on the whole class and audio muted unless a question is being asked or answered. It is expected that students will be interactive in the class, answering or following the instructions given by the professor.

H. Recorded Class Protocol

There are times when a professor might need to record a class meeting for students to view instead of meeting on the designated class night. If this does occur, in order for a student to be counted as present for that class week, the class recording will need to be viewed and then an email sent to info@rivercityschool.com notifying that the recording has been watched. No written response is needed.

VII. COURSE CONTENT / SCHEDULE

WEEK	READING ASSIGNMENT (To be read by date listed)	DUE DATE
Week 1	Read Intro: Pages 7-90 of <i>A Student's Guide to Apologetics</i> by Nichols	
Week 2	Read chapters 1-4 of <i>Systematic Lectures on Christian Apologetics</i> by Lantz	
Week 3	Read chapters 5-8 of <i>Systematic Lectures on Christian Apologetics</i> by Lantz	
Week 4	Read chapters 9-12 of <i>Systematic Lectures on Christian Apologetics</i> by Lantz	
Week 5	Read chapters 16-19 of <i>Systematic Lectures on Christian Apologetics</i> by Lantz	
Week 6	Read Part 1-3 of <i>No God But One Allah or Jesus?</i>	
Week 7	Read Part 4-6 of <i>No God But One Allah or Jesus?</i>	
Week 8	Read Part 7-9 of <i>No God But One Allah or Jesus?</i>	
Week 9	Read Part 10 of <i>No God But One Allah or Jesus</i>	
Week 10	Read the Conclusion pages 288-297 of <i>No God But One Allah or Jesus</i>	
Week 11	Read and review books assigned	
Break	Break	Break
Week 12	Study for Exam by reviewing notes and reading prior assignments.	

VIII. CHANGES

This syllabus is subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to note any revisions when released.