

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **APOL 320**

#### **APOLOGETICS AND THE GOSPEL**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines key questions related to the identity and ministry of Jesus, particularly as it relates to the historicity of the New Testament's portrayal of Jesus. Primary attention is given to examining historical evidence related to Jesus' existence, his ministry, miracles, deity, death, and resurrection as well as understanding Jesus as a part of the larger biblical story.

#### **RATIONALE**

Apologetics covers a wide range of disciplines because there are many areas in which people doubt and are skeptical. One such discipline in which Christians will encounter skeptical claims and/or arguments centers on the birth, life, ministry, death, deity, and resurrection of Jesus. In order to engage faithfully and efficiently with such claims and/or arguments, Christian apologists must be well versed in the historicity of the life of Christ as well as have a sound understanding of how the Gospel writers and the Apostle Paul tell the story of Jesus.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft OfficeSchool of Divinity Writing Guide:  
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Defend the historicity of the major events of the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

- B. Engage with various counter-arguments to the resurrection hypothesis by providing positive arguments for the resurrection of Jesus.
- C. Discuss instances in which divinity was attributed to Jesus by the Gospel authors and through Paul.
- D. Explain how Jesus fits into the larger biblical narrative.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist  
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)  
Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 350 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 other classmates thread. Each reply must be at least 250 words. (MLO: A, C, D)
- D. Reading Reflections (7)  
Throughout the term, the student will compose 7 Reading Reflections centered around the assigned module/week's reading assignment. For some module/weeks, the student will respond to a particular skeptical claim challenging some aspect of that module/week's reading. This is a chance to apply that module/week's reading in an apologetic scenario. For other module/weeks, the student will be asked to pick out a quote (or point) from the reading and interact with it by offering analysis, explanation, etc. Each reading reflection must be 7–8 sentences and demonstrate course-related knowledge. (MLO: A, C, D)
- E. Essay  
The student will write a 1,800–2,000-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on interacting with and addressing a Naturalistic Alternative Theory/Hypothesis on the resurrection of Jesus. The paper must include at least 10 scholarly references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. These must be credible articles or books. No unscholarly websites or blogs will be accepted as sources. The essay will be completed in 3 phases:
  1. Phase 1: Pick a topic, Selected Bibliography
  2. Phase 2: Intro paragraph, Thesis Statement, Outline, Annotated Bibliography
  3. Phase 3: Final DraftEach phase will be graded separately and will be due in intervals throughout the course. (MLO: A, B)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
Reading Reflections (7 at 50 pts ea)	350
Essay	
Phase 1	50
Phase 2	100
Phase 3	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

**VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017.

Beale, G. K. *Handbook of the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.

Hays, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2014.

Licona, Mike. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Lüdemann, Gerd. *The Resurrection of Christ: A Historical Inquiry*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2004.

Moyise, Steve. *Paul and Scripture: Studying the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.

Schreiner, Thomas R. *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

Wright, N.T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **APOL 320**

Textbooks: Capes, *The Divine Christ: Paul, the Lord Jesus, and the Scriptures of Israel* (2018).  
Keener, *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels* (2012).  
Wright, *How God Became King* (2016).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Keener: chs. 5–8, chs. 9–10 (recommended) 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Reading Reflection 1	10 0 50
<b>2</b>	Keener: chs. 11, 14, 17–19 1 presentation	Essay: Phase 1 Reading Reflection 2	50 50
<b>3</b>	Wright: Preface, chs. 1–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 1: Thread Reading Reflection 3	75 50
<b>4</b>	Wright: chs. 4–7 1 presentation	DB Forum 1: Reply Reading Reflection 4	75 50
<b>5</b>	Wright: chs. 8–9, ch. 10 (recommended) 1 presentation	Essay: Phase 2 Reading Reflection 5	100 50
<b>6</b>	Capes: chs. 2–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 2: Thread Reading Reflection 6	75 50
<b>7</b>	Keener: chs. 21–22, Appendices 8–9 1 presentation	Essay: Phase 3	200
<b>8</b>	Capes: ch. 5, Conclusion, Wright: ch. 11 1 presentation	DB Forum 2: Reply Reading Reflection 7	75 50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.