

**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 520**

#### **HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the history of Christian apologetics. The course will offer a contextualized study of key apologists in the history of Christianity, including Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, Augustine, Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin, Blaise Pascal, William Paley, B. B. Warfield, and C. S. Lewis. The study will focus upon the contribution of each apologist to Christian thought.

#### **RATIONALE**

Studies of how Christians have explained and defended their beliefs and behavior in various historical and cultural contexts will help prepare modern Christians to do the same in their own religiously diverse world. These studies will analyze how Christians have responded to accusations and heretical ideas within specific contexts with a view toward effectively sharing the truth of the gospel throughout the modern world.

#### **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 Word
- E. School 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. Summarize the key arguments and developments from the time of the Apostolic Church to the present day.
- B. Identify the key personalities who led the church and contributed to its apologetic development from its founding to the present day.
- C. Integrate the social, historical, and political contexts in which the apologists developed their arguments from the Church’s founding to the present day.
- D. Develop a key apologetic argument or response, taking into account the development of the argument or response throughout Christian history.

**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 (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. (MLO: A, B)

- D. Journal (3)

The student will keep a journal of his or her research which explains in detail the type of research undertaken, the sources used, provisional conclusions reached, and questions arising from the research. The writing style must be informal, and there is no minimal word count. (MLO: D)

- E. Research Paper (MLO: C, D)

Part 1

The student will prepare a 300-word document which includes the following: the focused area of the paper, a starting bibliography of 5 titles, and a list of issues to be addressed.

Part 2

The student will prepare a document which includes the following: a working thesis for the paper; a description of the argument of the paper; a final outline for the paper; and a final bibliography containing at least 12 sources.

Part 3

The student will write a 3,600-word research-based paper of at least 3,600 words in current Turabian format that focuses on one of the following topics: the ontological argument; God, evil, and suffering; or the reality of hell. The paper must include at least 12 sources in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

F. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the modules/weeks in which it is assigned. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes; contain 25–27 multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions; and have a 30-minute time limit. (MLO: A, B)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 75 pts ea)	225
Journal (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Research Paper	
Part 1	25
Part 2	50
Part 3	250
Exams (4 at 75 pts ea)	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. 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).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **APOL 520**

Textbooks: Dulles, *A History of Apologetics* (2005).  
 Edgar & Oliphint, *Christian Apologetics Past and Present*, vol. 1 (2009).  
 Edgar & Oliphint, *Christian Apologetics Past and Present*, vol. 2 (2011).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Dulles: ch. 1 Edgar & Oliphint (2009): Selected Readings 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	75
<b>2</b>	Dulles: ch. 2 Edgar & Oliphint (2009): Selected Readings 1 presentation	Exam 1	75
<b>3</b>	Dulles: ch. 3 Edgar & Oliphint (2009): Selected Readings 1 presentation	Journal 1	50
		Research Paper – Part 1	25
<b>4</b>	Dulles: Review ch. 3 Edgar & Oliphint (2009): Selected Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	75
		Exam 2	75
<b>5</b>	Dulles: ch. 4 Edgar & Oliphint (2011): Selected Readings 1 presentation	Journal 2	50
		Research Paper – Part 2	50
<b>6</b>	Dulles: ch. 5 Edgar & Oliphint (2011): Selected Readings 1 presentation	Exam 3	75
<b>7</b>	Dulles: ch. 6 Edgar & Oliphint (2011): Selected Readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	75
		Journal 3	50
<b>8</b>	Dulles: ch. 7 Edgar & Oliphint (2011): Selected Readings 2 presentations	Research Paper – Part 3	250
		Exam 4	75
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

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