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

APOL 550
FAITH AND REASON

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An introduction to basic issues in the intersection between faith and reason. The course will provide an introduction to the use of logic in apologetics and will consider key issues such as the nature of God, the definition of faith, religious epistemology, the nature of man and the human mind, and divine providence.

RATIONALE
Religious belief, in general, and Christianity in particular, is often falsely accused of requiring a blind leap of faith, the abandonment of reason and intellectual inquiry, and belief without evidence. Genuine, biblical Christianity, however, acknowledges human nature as including a robust rational, intellectual component, created by God and equipped for rational inquiry. Christianity has been attacked as irrational and incoherent; therefore, Christian apologists must be equipped to respond to these challenges by developing both a proper understanding of the relationship between faith and reason, and a comprehensive defense against specific arguments about Christianity.

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. RECOMMENDED RESOURCES


IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office

V. **Measurable Learning Outcomes**

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

A. Articulate a definition of faith that is consistent with biblical teaching.
B. Identify the distinctions in the different models of the relationship between faith and reason.
C. Apply the nature of intellectual inquiry to Christian theology and apologetics.
D. Articulate the role of religious experience in acquiring knowledge about God and the world.
E. Assess the role that reason, science, and evidence plays in epistemological justification and the acquisition of knowledge.
F. Defend the coherence of the various elements of the Christian worldview.
G. Apply the rational, intellectual life of the Christian to the spiritual life and worship of God.

VI. **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 (4)

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 at least 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. (MLO: B, C, D, F)

D. Reason and Worship Paper

The student will write a 900–1,500-word essay reflecting on the exercise of reason as an act of worship. While limited use of outside sources is permitted, the student must focus on the assigned course readings from Modules/Weeks 1 and 2 as well as relevant Scripture passages of the student’s choosing. (MLO: A, C, G)

E. Defining the Christian Faith Paper

The student will write a 1,500–2,100-word paper utilizing the course texts, the Bible, and at least 6 academic sources, defining the meaning of faith. The
definition must include an examination of the biblical data concerning the
terminology of “faith,” the core beliefs which comprise the content of the faith
distinguished from various secondary issues, and the way in which this definition
connects to the Christian life. (MLO: A, C, G)


The student will submit a preliminary outline, thesis, and bibliography of 8–12
sources in current Turabian format for the Faith and Reason Paper. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

G. Faith and Reason Paper

The student will write a paper that advances and defends a comprehensive
description of the proper relationship between faith and reason. The completed
paper must be 3,000–3,600 words, and include at least 10 high-quality, scholarly
sources (course textbooks and assigned scholarly articles may be used and do
count toward this total) in current Turabian format. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F).

H. Quizzes (3)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which
it is assigned as well as the preceding module/week, except for Quiz 3. Each quiz
will be open-book/open-notes, contain 15 multiple choice, true/false, and short
answer questions, and have a 1-hour time limit. (MLO: C, E)

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 75 pts ea)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason and Worship Paper</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining the Christian Faith Paper</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith and Reason Paper: Outline, Thesis, and Bibliography</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith and Reason Paper</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (3 at 60 pts ea)</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

D- = 680–699  F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the LUSD
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 Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**APOL 550**

Textbooks:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Moreland: chs. 1–3  
Moreland & Craig: Preface–ch. 1  
1 presentation | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
DB Forum 1 | 10  
0  
75 |
| 2           | Moreland: chs. 4–5  
Moreland & Craig: ch. 2  
Wolterstorff: chs. 1–2  
1 presentation | Reason and Worship Paper  
Quiz 1 | 75  
60 |
| 3           | Moreland & Craig: chs. 3–7  
Wolterstorff: chs. 3–9  
1 presentation | DB Forum 2  
Quiz 2 | 75  
60 |
| 4           | Wolterstorff: chs. 10–22  
4 presentations  
3 websites | Defining the Christian Faith Paper | 125 |
| 5           | Moreland: ch. 6  
Moreland & Craig: chs. 15–17  
1 website  
2 presentations | DB Forum 3  
Quiz 3 | 75  
60 |
| 6           | Wilkens: Introduction–Part 2  
1 presentation | Faith and Reason Paper: Outline,  
Thesis, and Bibliography | 70 |
| 7           | Moreland: chs. 9–10  
Wilkens: Part 3, Conclusion  
1 presentation | DB Forum 4 | 75 |
| 8           | Moreland & Craig: chs. 8–10, 19,  
23–26  
1 presentation | Faith and Reason Paper | 250 |

**TOTAL** 1010

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.