

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

DeWeese, Garrett J., and J. P. Moreland. *Philosophy Made Slightly Less Difficult: A Beginner's Guide to Life's Big Questions*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2005. ISBN: 9780830827664.

Peterson, Michael, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach, and David Basinger. *Reason & Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 9780199946570.

Plantinga, Alvin. *Knowledge and Christian Belief*. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans, 2015. ISBN: 9780802872043.

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)

F. Faith and Reason Paper: Outline, Thesis, and Bibliography

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

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 75 pts ea)	300
Reason and Worship Paper	75
Defining the Christian Faith Paper	125
Faith and Reason Paper: Outline, Thesis, and Bibliography	70
Faith and Reason Paper	250
Quizzes (3 at 60 pts ea)	180
Total	1010

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 [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: Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind* (2012).

Moreland & Craig, *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview* (2003).

Wilkins, *Faith and Reason* (2014).

Wolterstorff, *Reason within the Bounds of Religion* (1984).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
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	Wilkins: Introduction–Part 2 1 presentation	Faith and Reason Paper: Outline, Thesis, and Bibliography	70
7	Moreland: chs. 9–10 Wilkins: 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**.