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 630
CURRENT ISSUES IN APOLOGETICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An investigation of current issues and trends in apologetics, such as the intersection of science and religion, the problem of evil, atheism, or secularism.

RATIONALE
This course uses the categories of morality—moral goodness, moral knowledge, moral obligations, moral rights, moral freedom, moral responsibility, moral transformation, and moral rationality—to equip the student with resources to defend the truth of theism and Christianity. It shows that a Christian framework, in particular, can explain each of these phenomena better than secular ethics can.

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 RESOURCE

IV. 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
V. **Measurable Learning Outcomes**

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

A. Identify versions of moral arguments that have been given in the history of philosophy.

B. Describe the strengths of and challenges to theistic ethics.

C. Evaluate various *Euthyphro*-inspired objections to divine command theory.

D. Articulate and defend a four-fold variant of moral apologetics.

E. Critique secular ethics and its efforts to explain moral facts, moral knowledge, moral transformation, and the convergence of happiness and morality.

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 (2)

   Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will 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 will reply to the threads of at least 2 classmates. Each reply must be at least 200 words. (Outcomes: A, B, C, E)

D. Interview Assessment

   The student will write an assessment of at least 600 words on David Baggett’s interview with John Shook in current Turabian format. (Outcomes: B, C, E)

E. Debate Evaluation

   The student will listen to any online debate between a theist and an atheist on God and ethics. The student will then write an assessment of at least 600 words on the debate in current Turabian format. (Outcomes: A, B, C, E)

F. Article Critique

   The student will write a critical assessment of at least 600 words on George Mavrodes’ article “Religion and the Queerness of Morality” in current Turabian format. (Outcomes: A, B, C, E)

G. Letter to a Friend

   The student will write a letter to a friend (real or hypothetical) of at least 900 words, laying out a version of the moral argument in an irenic, friendly, conversational manner for evangelistic purposes. The assignment must be in current Turabian format. (Outcomes: B, D, E)
H. Book Critique
The student will write a critical assessment of at least 900 words explaining whether or not he or she agrees with the assessment of Lewis’s *The Abolition of Man* provided in Chapter 8 of *God and Cosmos*. The assignment must be in current Turabian format. (Outcomes: A)

I. Research Paper
The student will write a 3,000–3,600-word research-based paper that identifies all 4 components of the moral argument. Following this, the student will spend the rest of the paper explaining and replying to objections to 1 of the 4 components of the moral argument. The assignment must be in current Turabian format. (Outcomes: B, C, D, E)

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES
A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview Assessment</td>
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<td>Debate Evaluation</td>
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<td>Article Critique</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter to a Friend</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Critique</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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**Total** 1010

B. Scale

<table>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>900–919</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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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 Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at 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. 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 630**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Baggett & Walls (2011): Introduction–ch. 3  
              Copan & Litwak: Entire text  
              Plato: Entire text  
              Bible Readings  
              1 presentation | Course Requirements  
              Checklist  
              Class Introductions  
              Interview Assessment | 10  
              0  
              50 |
| 2           | Baggett & Walls (2016): ch. 3  
              Baggett & Walls (2011): Appendix B, ch. 8  
              1 presentation | Debate Evaluation | 100 |
| 3           | Baggett & Walls (2016): chs. 1–2  
              Garcia & King: chs. 1–3, 5  
              1 presentation  
              1 website | Article Critique | 100 |
| 4           | Baggett & Walls (2011): chs. 5–7  
              Evans: chs. 1–2, 4–5  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 1 | 150 |
| 5           | Baggett & Walls (2011): ch. 9  
              1 presentation  
              1 website | Letter to a Friend | 100 |
| 6           | Baggett & Walls (2016): ch. 7  
              Garcia & King: ch. 4  
              Lewis (*Mere Christianity*): Book 1  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 2 | 150 |
| 7           | Baggett & Walls (2016): ch. 8  
              Lewis (*The Abolition of Man*): Entire text  
              1 presentation | Book Critique | 150 |
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<th>MODULE/ WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Garcia &amp; King: chs. 7, 9–10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 presentation</td>
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**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.