

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

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

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:
<http://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

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
Interview Assessment	50
Debate Evaluation	100
Article Critique	100
Letter to a Friend	100
Book Critique	150
Research Paper	200
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 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

Textbooks: Baggett & Walls, *God and Cosmos: Moral Truth and Human Meaning* (2016).
 Baggett & Walls, *Good God: The Theistic Foundations of Morality* (2011).
 Copan & Litwak, *The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas* (2014).
 Evans, *God & Moral Obligation* (2014).
 Garcia & King, *Is Goodness Without God Good Enough?* (2009).
 Lewis, *The Abolition of Man* (2015).
 Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (2015).
 Plato, *Euthyphro* (2014).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
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 (<i>Mere Christianity</i>): Book 1 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	150
7	Baggett & Walls (2016): ch. 8 Lewis (<i>The Abolition of Man</i>): Entire text 1 presentation	Book Critique	150

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
8	Baggett & Walls (2016): ch. 9, Conclusion Baggett & Walls (2011): ch. 10, Conclusion Garcia & King: chs. 7, 9–10 1 presentation	Research Paper	200
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**.