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 <u>not</u> be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

APOL 820
CULTURAL APOLOGETICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course equips students to understand, evaluate, and engage cultural trends from a Christian ministerial perspective. Students will learn a biblical theology of culture which they will use to evaluate strategies for church engagement in the culture. Particular emphasis will be placed on the intersections that exist between ecclesial ministry, cultural influences in the western world, and apologetics. (Available to DMIN students only)

RATIONALE

This course will provide the student a Christian framework for understanding western culture and engaging with those who have adopted its assumptions.

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.   Microsoft Word

IV. **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

   A.   Examine the connections between cultural trends and ministry.

   B.   Interact with cultural trends from a Christian perspective.

   C.   Explain a theology of culture.

   D.   Evaluate strategies for interacting with cultural plausibility structures.

V.   **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A.   Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B.   Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and <u>Student Expectations</u>, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C.   Discussion Board Forum

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt. The thread must be 400–600 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.

D.   Annotated Bibliography

The student is required to submit an Annotated Bibliography in preparation for the "Contemporary Culture Major Paper." This bibliography will begin with an introductory paragraph of at least 75 words explaining the intended focus of the paper. This introductory paragraph must include an anticipated thesis statement. This thesis may change for the final paper, but for now the student must provide an anticipated thesis statement. Following that paragraph, provide a bibliography of at least 15 related works. This bibliography sketch must contain at least 5 books and 5 articles directly related to the anticipated thesis. It may contain no more than 3 websites. Each source must contain a 1–3-sentence summary explaining the general content of this source.

E.   Contemporary Culture Major Paper

The student will write a 3,000–4,000-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on a specific aspect of contemporary culture and responds to it from a Christian perspective. The paper must include at least 15 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. Of the 15 sources, at least 5 must be scholarly texts and at least 5 must be scholarly articles.

F.   Reading Quizzes (8)

The student will take 8 quizzes based on the readings assigned each module/week. These quizzes will require an assessment of the percentage of reading completed as well as a summary of the content and other components pertinent to that module/week's reading assignment. Each Reading Quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 6 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 15-minute time limit.

VI. **COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

    A.   Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forum Thread	75
Discussion Board Forum Replies	50
Annotated Bibliography	100
Contemporary Culture Major Paper	375
Reading Quizzes (8 at 50 pts ea)	400
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.

APOL 820

Textbooks: Guinness, *Fool's Talk: Recovering the Art of Christian Persuasion* (2015).
Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* (2015).
Keller, *Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical* (2016).
Skeel, *True Paradox: How Christianity Makes Sense of Our Complex World* (2014).
Smith, *How (Not) to be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor* (2014).
Taylor, *The Age of Authenticity* (1992)

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Guinness: entire text 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum Thread Reading Quiz 1	10 0 75 50
2	Keller (2015): chs. 4–5 1 presentation	DB Forum Replies Reading Quiz 2	50 50
3	Smith: Intro, chs. 1–3 1 presentation	Annotated Bibliography Reading Quiz 3	100 50
4	Smith: chs. 4–5, Conclusion 1 presentation	Reading Quiz 4	50
5	Taylor: entire text 1 presentation	Reading Quiz 5	50
6	Skeel: entire text* 1 presentation	Reading Quiz 6	50
7	Keller (2016): chs. 1–6 1 presentation	Contemporary Culture Major Paper Reading Quiz 7	375 50
8	Keller (2016): chs. 7–12 1 presentation	Reading Quiz 8	50
		TOTAL	1010

DB = Discussion Board
*This text is provided in e-book format in Blackboard.

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**.