

CTD04 APOLOGETICS

Lecturer(s)	Dr David Höhne David.hohne@moore.edu.au
Qualifications to teach	AQF Level 6 or above
Status	Elective
Co/pre-requisites	None

WORKLOAD	TOTAL
Credit points	6
Duration	1 semester
Weekly Lecture Content ¹	15
Primary Document reading and discussions	15
Structured Reflection preparation and writing	63
Travel and guided conversations	15
Recommended Reading	35
Foundational Knowledge Quizzes	7
Total commitment hours	150

GENERAL AIM:

The unit contributes to the DBT course by allowing the student to engage critically with current Christian apologetic issues. It develops skills of integration as the disciplines of biblical, systematic and philosophical theology are brought together for defending and commending Christianity in the context of contemporary Western culture.

The purpose of this unit is to equip students to understand and respond to specific contemporary objections to the Christian faith and to address these objections with the explanatory power of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ The 13 lectures take about 6 hours to read slowly. Time is allowed for two readings, including activities along the way.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this unit, students should be able to:		Graduate Attributes
1.	Examine critically, and understand in light of the gospel, various approaches to Christian apologetics including the social and cultural pressures on an individual.	GA 1, 2, 3
2.	Investigate the relationship between faith, reason and evidence in apologetics while considering their implications for an individual's understanding of, and engagement with, the world.	GA 1, 2
3.	Demonstrate attitudes and responses appropriate to the defence and commendation of the Christian gospel.	GA 6, 7
4.	Rehearse the skills necessary for defending and commending the Christian faith that can be applied in a variety of ministry contexts.	GA 1, 2, 6, 7

CONTENT

1.	Methods of apologetic approaches (LO 1)
2.	The Dynamics of Belief and Persuasion (LO 1&2)
3.	Religion as a Cultural Construct (LO 1 &2)
4.	Conflicts between Science and Christianity (LO 2&4)
5.	Hypocrisy and Christianity (LO 2&3)
6.	Errors, Contradictions and Atrocities in the Bible (LO 2&3)
7.	The Problem of Evil (LO 2&3)
8.	Other Religions – (Islam, Buddhism & Hinduism) (LO 2&3)
9.	The Cosmological Argument (LO 2,3&4)
10.	The Fine-Tuning Argument (LO 2,3&4)
11.	The Moral Argument (LO 2,3&4)
12.	The Historicity of Jesus & the Bible (LO 2,3&4)
13.	Conversation and Aims in the Church and in the World (LO 4)

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Weekly Lecture Content
Discussion Forums
Recommended Readings
Experiential engagement in apologetic contexts
Foundation Knowledge Quizzes

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Foundational knowledge quizzes

100 Multiple Choice Questions. The quizzes help you consolidate your learning of the unit content. You must complete all quizzes and achieve an overall score above 90% to pass the unit. You are allowed unlimited attempts but must complete the quizzes satisfactorily before the end of the final assessment week. These quizzes do not contribute marks towards your final grade in the unit.

LO 1-4

Two Primary Document Discussion Forums

The student will be required to read the primary document, make a statement based on their reflections on the content, present the class with a question for discussion, and answer another question from the group.

500 words each

Weighting: 15%

LO 1-4

Structured reflection on a series of conversations with non-Christian – 70%

Students engage in conversations designed to explore objections to Christianity or defeater beliefs. The student then completes a reflection exercise analysing the objections/defeater beliefs and their own reactions to the experience. 2,750 words.

Weighting: 85%

LO 1-4

Note for students: Please refer to the [DBT Handbook](#) for College requirements on assessments, including presentation, correct referencing of sources, word limits and late submission.

Any research involving human subjects must be approved by the College's Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) before any research or contact with research subjects commences. The HREC procedures are outlined in the DBT Handbook [07. Ethical Conduct of Human Research](#).

PROGRESSION

Successful completion of this unit requires:

1.	Participation in all forums
2.	50% or better in the Structured Reflection
3.	Completing the Foundational Knowledge Quizzes with an overall score above 90%

RECOMMENDED READING

Reading to assist the student to achieve the unit learning outcomes

Author(s)	Title and Publisher	Pages	# of Pages
McLaughlin, Rebecca	<i>Confronting Christianity, (Wheaton Illinois: Crossways, 2019)</i>	All	223 pp
Primary Documents			
Augustine	Free-will defence (<i>On Free Will, 2.1.3; 2.18.48</i>)	One-page extract	
Calvin	Calvin on Science (<i>Institutes of Christian Religion 2.2.15-16</i>) extract	One-page extract	
Total recommended reading			225 pp

REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Describes the scope of the unit, not required reading

Author(s)	Title and Publisher
Brierley, Justin	<i>Unbelievable? Why After Ten Years of Talking with Atheists I'm Still a Christian</i> (London: SPCK, 2017)
Carson, D.A. et. al.	<i>Telling the Truth: Evangelising Postmoderns</i> (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000)
Chatraw, Joshua and Mark Allen	<i>Apologetics at the Cross: An Introduction for Christian Witness</i> (Zondervan, 2018)
Cowan, Steven (ed.)	<i>Five Views on Apologetics</i> (Zondervan, 2000)
Dickson, John	<i>Investigating Jesus: An Historians Quest</i> (Oxford: Lion, 2010)
D'Souza, Dinesh	<i>What's So Great About Christianity</i> (Washington DC: Regnery, 2007)
Keller, Timothy	<i>The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism</i> (New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 2009)
Keller, Timothy	<i>Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism</i> (New York: Viking, 2015)
Keller, Timothy	<i>Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical</i> (Viking, 2016)
Koukl, Gregory	<i>Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions</i> (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009)
Lennox, John	<i>God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?</i> (Lion Hudson, 2009)
Lennox, John	<i>Have No Fear: Being Salt and Light Even When It's Costly</i> (10publishing, 2018)
Newman, Randy	<i>Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did</i> (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004)
Spufford, Francis	<i>Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense</i> (New York: HarperOne, 2013)
Skeep, David	<i>True Paradox: How Christianity Makes Sense of Our Complex World</i> (Downers Grove: IVP, 2014)