



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**Course: MI258 - Apologetics**  
**Instructor: Jeremy Loeth**  
**Winter 2019**  
**2 Credit Hours**  
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### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

As faithful Christians go throughout life, they will inevitably face a host of difficult questions. These inquiries are not simply from those outside of Christianity, but they are also asked from within the Church itself. Many believers find themselves intimidated by these questions, lacking knowledge of the basic evidential support that Christianity has.

This course focuses on training students to readily defend their Christian beliefs against attacks. This is accomplished by introducing both the evidence and arguments that support Christian theism while learning rebuttals to common objections. The result is a more confident faith and an outreach focused mindset.

### ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

*Apologetics at the Cross: An Introduction for Christian Witness* by Joshua D. Chatraw and Mark D. Allen. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018. **(Pages 13 – 318).**

### ***THE BIG QUESTION***

*What kind of arguments and evidences are there to affirm the truthfulness and trustworthiness of the historic Christian faith?*

### ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

1. The student will experience a strengthened personal faith as a result of the information they receive
2. The student will gain increased boldness in their personal witness to those outside of the body of Christ
3. The student will have a desire to engage the “empty philosophies” found within our society
4. The student will develop an ability to answer core objections to the Christian faith

## ***COURSE ASSIGNMENTS***

### **Textbook Reading – 25%**

- Each student is expected to read the assigned text in its entirety. Once completed, you will be required to write a **2 page** summary of what you have read. Choose points that stuck out to you (good and bad), and state whether or not you found the information helpful to you. Remember to state which chapters you chose to read. The book's bibliographic information is required, as well as the total amount of pages you read.

**Due: February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

### **Research Paper – 40%**

- This assignment is meant to give individuals a chance to interact with an objection or problem that unbelievers raise in an attempt to discredit the Christian faith. You will investigate the argument, the strengths and weaknesses of the position, and your proposed rebuttal.
- It would be wise to choose a topic fairly quickly, as you'll want to mull it over for a while to get a proper understanding of the subject. Note that you are open to choosing a subject that interests you, but you must first clear it with the instructor. The paper should be a minimum of **8 pages** in length and must have a minimum of 7 academic sources.
- Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
  - If God exists, why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?
  - Doesn't science disprove the existence of God?
  - Christianity has committed horrible atrocities in the name of God
  - It is narrow-minded to think Jesus is the only way
  - The Bible is full of errors, therefore it cannot be true
  - How could a loving God send people to hell?
  - Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites

**Due: March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### **Class Interaction – 10%**

- Individuals will be marked according to their contributions to the class. This isn't limited to verbal interaction, but also includes attentiveness, tracking with the material (ex. flipping to Bible passages), and consistent attendance.

***Throughout Course***

### **Final Exam – 25%**

- The exam will cover all the previous classes. Every question found on the exam will have been covered throughout the class, so diligent note taking

will be a must. The exam will not be too difficult if you devote a few hours of intentional study in the days leading up to the exam. A rough study primer will be provided towards the end of the course.

**Due: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

**LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

**Reading: 305**

**Writing: 10 pages**

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Beckwith, Francis, William Lane Craig, and J.P. Moreland ed. *The Everyone An Answer*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Craig, William Lane. *On Guard*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010.

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Evans, Jeremy. *The Problem of Evil: The Challenge to Essential Christian Beliefs*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013.

Geisler, Norman and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004.

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- Habermas, Gary. *The Historical Jesus*. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Company, 1996.
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- Hunter, Braxton. *Evangelistic Apologetics: Compatibility and Integration*. Evansville, IN: Trinity Academic Press, 2014.
- Koukl, Greg. *Tactics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
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- Moreland, J.P. *Love Your God With All Your Mind*. Colorado Springs: CO: NavPress, 1997.
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- Ross, Hugh. *Why The Universe Is The Way It Is*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2013.
- Whorton, Mark and Hill Roberts. *Holman Quicksource Guide to Understanding Creation*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2008.
- Wright, N.T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Velarde, Robert. *A Visual Defense: The Case For And Against Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2013.
- Zacharias, Ravi. Ed. *Beyond Opinion*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007.