

PHREL 4373 Christian Apologetics

William A. Dembski

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I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord ... that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings. Philippians 3

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of Christian apologetics. Of special interest are how various apologetic strategies alternately help or hinder the Christian in defending one's faith and making it plausible to others.

Course Objective:

The goal of this course is to help students reflect with philosophical precision and theological rigor on the Christian apologetic enterprise.

Reading List:

- [D&R] William A. Dembski & Jay Wesley Richards (eds.), *Unapologetic Apologetics: Meeting the Challenges of Theological Studies* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2001).
- [PEJ] Phillip E. Johnson, *Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1995).
- [VR] Victor Reppert, *C. S. Lewis's Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2003).
- [MG] Martin Gardner, *The Flight of Peter Fromm* (1973; reprinted Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus, 1994).
- [B&B] Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M. Bowman Jr., *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity* (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 2001).
- [RG] Robert Greene, *The 33 Strategies of War* (New York: Viking, 2006).

Semester Grade:

- (1) Online and in-class quizzes — 40 percent positive.
- (2) Comprehensive final exam — 30 percent positive.
- (3) 1,500- to 2,000-word critical review of MG — 30 percent positive. Due last day of class.
- (4) Active class participation – minus up to 10 percent if lacking.
- (5) Single-page executive summary of YOU (with embedded picture) — minus 5 percent if not handed in. Due beginning of second week of class.

Readings:

- (1) D&R, foreword, preface, chs. 1, 4, 5

NOTE: (1) needs to be read the first week of class.

- (2) D&R, chs., 7-10 || 11-13; RG, chs. 1 || 2
(3) PEJ, intro, chs. 1-3 || 4, 5; RG, chs. 3 || 4, 5
(4) PEJ, chs. 6-8 || 9, 10, appendix; RG, chs. 6 || 7, 8
(5) VR, chs. 1-3 || 4-6
(6) MG, chs. 1-10; RG, chs. 9, 10 || 11, 12
(7) MG, chs. 11-18; RG, chs. 13, 14 || 15, 16
(8) MG, chs. 19-30; RG, chs. 17, 18 || 19, 20
(9) B&B, chs. 1-3 || 4, 5; RG, chs. 21 || 22
(10) B&B, chs. 6, 7 || 8, 9; RG, chs. 23 || 24
(11) B&B, chs. 10, 11 || 12, 13; RG, chs. 25 || 26
(12) B&B, chs. 14, 15 || 16, 17; RG, chs. 27 || 28
(13) B&B, chs. 18, 19 || 20, 21; RG, chs. 29 || 30
(14) B&B, chs. 22, 23; RG, chs. 31-33

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Course: PHREL 4373
Term: Fall 2006
Time: TR 9:25-10:40 am
Place: Scarborough 118
Online: <http://www.designinference.com/teaching/teaching.htm>