SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PHREL 4373A Christian Apologetics
William A. Dembski
[masters course; spring 2008]

What you believe to be true will control you whether it's true or not.
–Jeremy LaBorde

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 theological accuracy, philosophical precision, and cultural sensitivity on the Christian apologetic enterprise.

Reading List:

[SBC]   Steven B. Cowan, ed., *Five Views on Apologetics* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2000).

[D&R]   William A. Dembski & Jay Wesley Richards, eds., *Unapologetic Apologetics: Meeting the Challenges of Theological Studies* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2001).

[MG]   Martin Gardner, *The Flight of Peter Fromm* (1973; reprinted Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus, 1994).

[PEJ]   Phillip E. Johnson, *Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1995).

[CSL]   C. S. Lewis, *Miracles* (1947; revised and reprinted San Francisco: Harper, 2001).

[LN]   Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* (Grand Rapids, Mich..: Eerdmans, 1989).

Semester Grade:

(1)   Mid-term exam — 20 percent positive.
(2)   Comprehensive final exam — 40 percent positive.
(3)   2,000- to 2,500-word critical review of MG — 40 percent positive. Due last class meeting.
(4)   Active class participation — up to 10 percent negative.
(5)   Pop quizzes — up to 20 percent negative.
(6)   <u>Single-page</u> executive summary of YOU (with clearly recognizable picture of yourself) — minus 10 percent if not handed in. Due second class meeting.

Readings:
(1)   D&R, foreword, preface, chs. 1 || 4, 5
(2)   D&R, chs. 7-10 || 11-13
(3)   CSL, chs. 1-5 || 6-10
(4)   CSL, chs. 11-14 || 15-17 plus appendices
(5)   PEJ, intro, chs. 1-3 || 4, 5
(6)   PEJ, chs. 6-8 || 9, 10, appendix
(7)   LN, chs. 1-3 || 4-6
(8)   LN, chs. 7-9 || 10-13
(9)   LN, chs. 14-16 || 17-20
(10)   MG, afterword, foreword, chs. 1-14
(11)   MG, chs. 15-30
(12)   SBC, chs. 1 || 2
(13)   SBC, chs. 4 || 5
(14)   SBC, chs. 3 || 6

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Course: PHREL 4373A
Term: Spring 2008
Time: 9:25 – 10:40 am, WF
Place: TBA
Online: http://www.designinference.com/teaching/teaching.htm