

Apologetics 4373, Spring 2009, Midterm Exam Study Topics

UNAPOLOGETIC APOLOGETICS (by Dembski and Richards):

What has happened to the teaching of apologetics at mainline seminaries || The task of apologetics || Jude 3 || The Vincentian Canon || Physical vs. theoretical content of a paradigm; a paradigm's regulative principles || The core of a paradigm || Naturalism || Materialism || Methodological naturalism || Darwinian vs. Christian paradigm || Biblical inerrancy vs. infallibility || Naturalism in biblical studies – how does it subvert biblical studies || Can naturalism be justified? How? || Ockham / Occam's razor || How does evolutionary naturalism destroy its own credibility? || How did Jesus get a Y chromosome? || Gregory of Nazianus's axiom || Can a male savior save women? – be able to defend that a male savior is able to do this || Does feminism allow for an orthodox faith? – be able to argue this one way or the other || Isaiah 44:9 – 20; how is this passage relevant to feminist theology? || How would you argue for the legitimacy of father language for God to someone who has been abused by one's human father? || What is the Pascalian argument against universalism? || Aristotle's four causes || Be able to define intelligent design (or ID) || How does ID differ from creationism? from evolution?

MIRACLES (by C. S. Lewis):

“Those who wish to succeed must ask the right preliminary questions” – How is this quote from Aristotle relevant to this book by Lewis? || Why didn't the one person Lewis knew who claims to have seen a ghost continue to disbelieve in ghosts? || Is seeing believing? Explain || What is nature? || Distinguish the naturalist from the supernaturalist || What are the two meanings of “because”? Be able to illustrate the difference || How does naturalism undermine its own credibility? Is this the cardinal difficulty of naturalism? || How do human reason and morality demonstrate an invasion of nature by supernature? || Were people in olden times too ready to accept miracles? Explain || What is a miracle? || Be able to distinguish and illustrate miracles of the old and new creation || Does the vastness of the universe and the smallness of planet earth argue against the truth of Christianity? Explain || What's the difference between a metaphor and a simile? Can theological language escape metaphors? Should it try to explain metaphors in non-metaphorical terms? || What's the difference between Christianity and religion? || What was David Hume's criticism of miracles? Why doesn't it hold up? || What, according to Lewis, is the “Grand Miracle”? || What does Lewis mean when he refers to naturalism as “hangover”?

TOTAL TRUTH (by Nancy Pearcey):

What is the two-story view of truth? Be able to give examples of the forms it takes || How is the “two-story” view of truth at the heart of Christianity's cultural captivity? || What is a worldview? Does having the right worldview solve all our problems? What more is needed? || What are the three main components of a worldview? || Be able to give a worldview analysis of Christianity and naturalism || How do we prevent Christianity from being “kept in its place”? || What is Darwinism? How, if at all, does it differ from evolution? || Why is Darwinism so crucial to a naturalistic worldview? || What are some lines of evidence that suggest Darwinism is not the slam-dunk that its advocates claim it is? || What do Darwinists do with the appearance of design in nature? || How do intelligent design proponents explain the appearance of design in nature? || What are some lines of evidence that suggest that design in nature is not merely an appearance but real? || How is Darwinism influencing the wider culture? || How is philosophical pragmatism related to Darwinism? || How has Evangelicalism helped and hindered Christianity's influence on contemporary culture? Why has Evangelicalism tended to embrace a two-story view of truth? || How has feminism undercut the Christian worldview? || What is the nature of true spirituality?