

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEMINARY**  
2075 EAST MADISON AVENUE • EL CAJON • CALIFORNIA 92019-1108

**PH-505 APOLOGETICS AND CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES**

FALL SEMESTER, MODULE 2  
NOVEMBER 1-DECEMBER 13, 2016  
BLENDED

**PROFESSOR**

Ward Crocker, DMin.  
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Hours: 10am-4pm (Monday-Wednesday); 12-5pm Thursday



**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

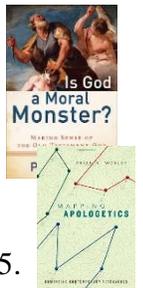
An examination of the biblical and philosophical basis for making a rational defense of the Christian faith. This course is designed to assist students in communicating the basic concepts of their faith in an intellectual manner. The study involves discussion of a number of apologists and their worldview as revealed in church history as well as disciplines foundational to apologetics such as philosophy, history, and science. *3 Units*

**PROFESSOR'S COMMENT**

This course is designed to provide you with a biblical and philosophical framework for defending and promoting core aspects Christian faith in a time of unbelief and continual attack. In this class, you will be introduced to apologetics, the history of apologetics, areas of support for the Christian faith, the problem of historical knowledge, and challenges from OT morality.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

1. *The Holy Bible*. A translation based on formal equivalence, such as the *New King James Version* or the *New American Standard Bible*, is recommended for study.
2. Copan, Paul. *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011. 252 pages. ISBN: **9780801072758**. List price: \$14.99.
3. Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013. 480 pages. ISBN-10: 0801048540 or ISBN-13: 978-0801048548. List Price: \$20.91.
4. Morley, Brian K. *Mapping Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015. 365 pages. ISBN: **978-0-8308-4067-0** or ISBN: **978-0-8303-9704-9**. List Price: \$16.93.
5. Other articles provided in Blackboard.



**Please Note:** In order to get your books before classes begin, it is your responsibility to order the texts at least one month prior to the start of class or be willing to pay expedited shipping.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

1. Craig, William Lane. *On Guard*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook books, 2010. 286 pages. ISBN: **9781434764881** or eISBN: **9781434701886**. List price: \$16.99.
2. Habermas, Gary R. and Michael R. Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishing. 2004. 352 pages. ISBN: **0825427886**. List price: \$21.99.
3. Hoerth, Alfred and John McRay. *Bible Archaeology: An Exploration of the History and Culture of Early Civilizations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 2005. 288 pages. ISBN: **0801012872**. List price: \$31.90.
4. Moreland, J. P. and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 2003. 653 pages. ISBN: **0830826947**. List price: \$26.28.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to . . .	PROGRAM OBJECTIVES*	SCS INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES*	COURSE REQUIREMENT (CR #)
1. Articulate the core components to and differences between various apologetic methodologies.	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 5
2. State and distinguish various areas of evidence that support the truth of the Christian worldview.	1, 3, 4	1, 4, 5, 8	1, 11
3. Address the problem of historical knowledge, how to overcome this challenge, and relate the relevance of this issue to the Christian faith.	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 5
4. Articulate key facts supporting the Christian faith including factors relevant to documents and archaeology.	1, 3, 4	1, 4, 5, 8	1, 11
5. Prepare a biblically sound, philosophically robust apologetic for defending the Christian faith.	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 5
6. Answer key arguments opposing the existence of God and biblical theism with a special focus on the problem of evil and Old Testament morality.	1, 3, 4	1, 4, 5, 8	7, 8, 9
7. Articulate what <i>truth</i> is and present document and archaeological support for the reliability of the Bible.	1, 3, 4	1, 4, 5, 8	1, 11

\* *The program and institutional objectives are published in the Academic Catalog.*

### *COURSE REQUIREMENTS*

Many if not all written assignments will be turned in through Blackboard and will be processed through software to check for plagiarism.

1. Read all text books, online articles, and any other materials provided by your professor on time (during the week relevant to the topics as listed in your syllabus and BB).
2. View all videos posted.
3. Participate in the Blackboard discussions. These discussions are based on the weekly readings and are designed to help you interact with other students on key topics. Not only will you answer the questions posted but you must also respond (clarify issues, further the discussion, etc.) to at least two (2) other student postings per discussion each week. **Important:** a posting will count only if it is substantive in nature. Saying, “I agree” or something else brief will not be counted as a legitimate posting. You need to explain your thoughts for each posting. **Note:** the initial blackboard postings are due by midnight each Saturday evening of each session. This provides time for students to reply.
4. Written papers: All papers must conform to Turabian formatting. In order to write the papers successfully, it is recommended first complete the weekly readings, videos, and utilize what you learn from the BB discussions. It is **highly** recommended that you participate in the Blackboard discussions to help you formulate your thoughts for each paper. Feel free to work on your paper **as you complete** the reading and BB discussions. For each paper, be concise in what you say.
5. Paper 1: Write a three to four (3-4) page paper covering key issues of apologetics (what apologetics is, the goal of apologetics, what apologetics accomplishes, what apologetics will not accomplish, the kind of resources a good apologist incorporates). Be sure to use the passages of Scripture posted on BB. You are developing a biblical basis for the apologetic task. Due at the end of Session 2.
6. Paper 2: Write a three to four (3-4) page paper addressing the issue of historical knowledge, how this challenge relates to the Christian faith, and how this challenge is overcome. You are developing a basis for knowing historical facts. Due at the end of Session 5.
7. Paper 3: Write a three to four (3-4) page paper addressing what you believe is the strongest moral objection to God’s character as found in the Old Testament covered in Copan’s text. Clearly state the problem, how the issue is problematic, and provide a good, biblically sound and philosophically robust response to the issue. You are developing a foundation to address moral challenges based upon the OT. Due at the end of Session 7.
8. Course Exam: students will take an exam at the end of Session 5. This exam will be administered online through Blackboard. This exam can be take a single time (once) and has a time limit of three hours (after which the exam will automatically close). The exam is based upon class lectures.
9. There are no quizzes this class. Instead, you will be held accountable for the reading through both the Blackboard discussions and written papers. The papers are designed to

help you 1) think through key issues well and 2) have, in your hand, a well-developed apologetic on key issues from which you can build further materials for your life and ministry, and 3) display a foundation to develop a robust apologetic.

### *SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION*

Read the table like this, “Session \_\_\_\_ begins on \_\_\_\_\_, the scheduled session content is \_\_\_\_\_, and the assignment *due by the end of that week are* \_\_\_\_\_.”

SESSION	DATE	SESSION CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	Nov 1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Course Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is apologetics?</li> <li>○ Various Apologetic Methodologies</li> <li>○ What is truth?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Failure to complete this assignment by the first night of class may result in your removal from the course.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Read: Morley Introduction and Chapters 1-6</li> <li>❑ Read online article “Philosophy and the Christian Faith.”</li> <li>❑ Read all Scripture passages given</li> <li>❑ Participate in the BB discussions.</li> <li>❑ Begin Paper 1</li> </ul>
2	Nov 8-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theology and History of Apologetics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Old Testament examples</li> <li>○ New Testament examples</li> <li>○ Development of Apologetics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Read: Morley Chapters 7-12 and Conclusion.</li> <li>❑ Refer to the article again “Philosophy and the Christian Faith.”</li> <li>❑ Blackboard discussions</li> <li>❑ Submit paper 1</li> </ul>

3	Nov 15-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Areas of Support for Christianity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A robust apologetic</li> <li>○ Historical support</li> <li>○ Philosophical support</li> <li>○ Scientific support</li> <li>○ Intuition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Blackboard discussions.</li> <li>❑ Read: Geisler Part 1 (chapters 1-8)</li> <li>❑ Read Crocker article “Scientism”</li> <li>❑ Begin Paper 2</li> <li>❑ <b>Note: It’s Time To Order All Textbooks For Next Module!</b></li> </ul>
4	Dec 6-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Historical knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Challenges to historical knowledge</li> <li>○ Understanding historical knowledge</li> <li>○ Documents</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Read: Geisler: Part 2 (chapters 9-13)</li> <li>❑ Blackboard discussions.</li> <li>❑ Read Mat. 26:47-28, Mark 14:43-16, Luke 22:47-24, and John 18-21, 1 Cor. 15:1-11</li> <li>❑ Read online article(s)</li> <li>❑ Continue working on Paper 2</li> </ul>
5	Dec 13-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Archaeology and Prophecy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction to archaeology</li> <li>○ Types of prophetic fulfillment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Read: Geisler Part 3 (chapters 14-18)</li> <li>❑ Blackboard discussions.</li> <li>❑ Read online articles regarding archaeology and prophecy</li> <li>❑ <b>Submit paper 2.</b></li> <li>❑ <b>Course Exam</b></li> </ul>
6	Nov 22-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Is God a Moral Monster? (Part 1)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Blackboard discussions.</li> <li>❑ Read: Copan Introduction and chapters 1-11</li> <li>❑ Begin Paper 3</li> </ul>
7	Nov 29- Dec 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Is God a Moral Monster? (Part 2)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Blackboard discussions.</li> <li>❑ Read: Copan chapters 12-20</li> <li>❑ Submit Paper 3</li> </ul>

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

Blackboard Participation.....	400	40%
Papers.....	300	30%
Course Exam.....	200	20%
Reading .....	100	10%
	1,000 pts,	100%

**GRADE SCALE**

The final course grades are not given out until at least three weeks after the course is finished. A student will not be given their final grade unless the course has been paid for in full.

Grade	Percent	Points	Grade	Percent	Points
A	95–100%	950-1000	C+	80–82%	800-829
A-	92–94%	920-949	C	77–79%	770-799
B+	89–91%	890-919	C-	74–76%	740-769
B	86–88%	860-889	<b>Any grade lower than “C-” will be reduced to “F.”</b>		
B-	83–85%	830-859			

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

For the Modular Courses (21 lecture hours/ 7 weeks), more than 10 minutes missing from class is considered a Tardy, and more than 20 minutes missing from class is counted as an Absence. Two tardies = one absence. You are permitted one absence for a 7-week course. Two absences results in being dropped from the course. For online students, an absence is based on the failure to turn in the weekly assignments.

General School Policy: A student who takes an absence from class will receive a penalty resulting in an immediate reduction of their final grade by 7 percent in a modular class and 3.5 percent in a trimester class. However, the student will have the ability to make up between 0 percent and all of the deduction at the professor’s discretion.

**LATE COURSE WORK POLICY**

Papers submitted after the midnight deadline will receive an automatic 10% (full grade) deduction for two day period (48 hours) it is late (up to 50% reduction). Interaction on the BB discussion will help you write your papers so it is imperative that you keep up on this throughout each week. For extenuating circumstances, be sure to contact your professor as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Southern California Seminary expects its students to conduct themselves honestly in their personal and academic lives. If evidence arises of academic dishonesty, the dean of the program will investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

**Offenses Against Academic Integrity**

***Cheating.*** Cheating is never tolerated at SCS.

***Plagiarism.*** Plagiarism can occur intentionally or inadvertently. Intentional acts of plagiarism involve knowingly and willingly treating another person's work as one's own original work. It includes copying or imitating the words, sentences, outlines, or ideas of another person. Inadvertent plagiarism can occur when a student fails to properly cite original sources. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at SCS. Therefore, all offenses of plagiarism will be reported to the dean of the program in which the offense occurred and an investigation will be made to determine what disciplinary action should be taken.

Aiding or Conspiring in the Commission of Plagiarism. Helping someone commit plagiarism is viewed as equally dishonest as plagiarism, for all participating parties.

***Multiple Submissions.*** This offense occurs when a student submits a paper that was written for another course as if it were an original paper satisfying the requirements of the present course. Attempting to submit such work is deceptive and a form of academic dishonesty. On the occasion that a student's previous work has some potential for expansion, improvement, or to serve as a starting point for another line of thought (as with Doctrinal Summary/Synopsis) the student will be advised by the professor to what extent a particular previous work may be permitted. The professor may require that a copy of the previous work be submitted with the later work.

**LIBRARY**

The SDCC/SCS Library website is your gateway to library resources and information. For a complete description of the library's holdings, services, staff and access to its online collections, go to: <http://sdcc.edu/library>.