

High School Apologetics

Course Reference & Syllabus

Course Information

- Primary Textbook: *On Guard for Students: A Thinker's Guide to the Christian Faith* by William Lane Craig
- Required Student Materials: Bible and On Guard for Students textbook.

14-Week Course Outline

Unit 1: Foundations of Faith & The Cosmological Arguments

- **Week 1:** Introduction to Apologetics
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 1
 - Core Concepts: Defining apologia (legal defense); the ultimate meaninglessness of life if atheism is true.
 - Scripture: 1 Peter 3:15, Psalm 14:1.
- **Week 2:** The Leibnizian Cosmological Argument
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 3
 - Core Concepts: The Principle of Sufficient Reason; distinguishing between necessary and contingent beings.
 - Scripture: Hebrews 3:4, Colossians 1:17.
- **Week 3:** The Kalam Cosmological Argument
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 4
 - Core Concepts: Proving the universe had a beginning using both philosophical logic and scientific astrophysics.
 - Scripture: Genesis 1:1, Psalm 102:25.
- **Week 4:** The Uncaused Cause
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 4 (cont.)
 - Core Concepts: Analyzing the attributes of the cause of the universe (timeless, spaceless, immaterial, and impersonal).
 - Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:17, John 1:3.

Unit 2: Teleology, Morality, & The Problem of Evil

- **Week 5:** The Teleological Argument
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 5

- Core Concepts: Fine-tuning of the fundamental constants of physics; choosing between necessity, chance, or design.
- Scripture: Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:20.
- **Week 6: The Objective Moral Argument**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 6
 - Core Concepts: Objective vs. subjective morals; why human morality is just a biological illusion without a transcendent standard.
 - Scripture: Romans 2:15, Judges 21:25.
- **Week 7: The Problem of Suffering and Evil**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 2
 - Core Concepts: The intellectual vs. emotional problem of evil; sovereign, multi-generational reasons for permitting temporary pain.
 - Scripture: Romans 8:28, Isaiah 55:9.
 - Milestone: 1-Page Written Paper Due.

Unit 3: Historical Claims & The Resurrection

- **Week 8: The Historical Reliability of the Gospels**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 7 & 8
 - Core Concepts: Testing the New Testament as separate historical biographies; navigating the Liar, Lunatic, or Lord theory.
 - Scripture: John 10:30, John 8:58, Mark 14:61-62.
- **Week 9: Core Resurrection Facts (The Empty Tomb)**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 9
 - Core Concepts: Using bedrock historical data; why the cultural and legal status of the first-century validates the empty tomb account.
 - Scripture: Luke 24:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
- **Week 10: Post-Mortem Appearances & The Disciples' Belief**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 9 (cont.)
 - Core Concepts: Group and individual appearances to friends, skeptics, and enemies; why a known lie does not produce martyrs.
 - Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, Acts 4:19-20.
- **Week 11: Dismantling the Rival Theories**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 10
 - Core Concepts: Exposing the flaws of naturalistic theories (conspiracy, stolen body, and the psychological impossibility of group hallucinations).
 - Scripture: Matthew 28:12-13, Luke 24:39.

Unit 4: Exclusivity & Cultural Defense

- **Week 12: The Exclusivity of Christ vs. Religious Relativism**
 - Textbook Reference: Chapter 11
 - Core Concepts: Exposing the logical contradictions between competing worldviews; the self-refutation of religious pluralism.
 - Scripture: John 14:6, Acts 4:12.

- **Week 13:** Rules of Formal Engagement
 - Textbook Reference: Appendix
 - Core Concepts: Mastering deductive structures; identifying logic gaps and targeting premises instead of getting emotional.
 - Scripture: Titus 1:9, 2 Corinthians 10:5.
- **Week 14:** Presentation Day: Course Wrap-Up & Debate
 - Textbook Reference: Full Review
 - Core Concepts: Student-led debate
 - Scripture: Jude 1:3, Ephesians 6:13.
 - Milestone: In-Class Live Debate- Defending Their Faith