

# Introduction to Apologetics Course Syllabus

Semester 1, Fall 2011

September 12, 2011 – January 20, 2012

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 19-27, 2011 / Christmas Break: Dec. 17, 2011-January 1, 2012

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**TITLE: Christian Apologetics: I Don't Have Enough Faith to be An Atheist**

**Teacher:**

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Monday 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Eastern, or  
Wednesday 9:45-11:15 AM Eastern

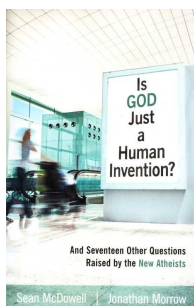
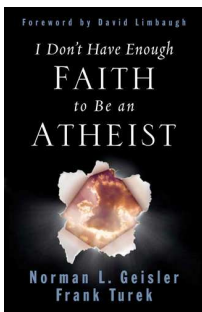
## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Sometimes referred to as "Indoctrination Inoculation", this course is a survey of the evidences for the central truths of Christianity; the existence of God, the deity and resurrection of Christ and the authority and truth of the Bible. The defense of the Christian faith is a Biblical command. Christians must be prepared to explain what they believe and why they believe it, with gentleness and respect. There are 'proofs' throughout the cosmos and in the Bible. This course will focus on these 'proofs' and argue that Christianity is superior to all worldviews because it is the most reasonable. The evidence for truth, God, and the Bible will be examined in logical order and in a simple, non-technical, engaging style. The goal is to 'inoculate' the student before attending college, from the onslaught of faith-destroying philosophies.

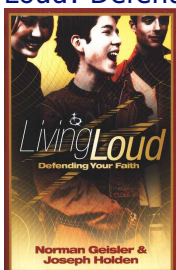
## **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Geisler, Norman L. and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*. Crossway Books, 2004. (7-8th grade students must have but are not required to read)
2. *Is God Just a Human Invention? And Seventeen Other Questions Raised by the New Atheists*, by Sean McDowell, Jonathan Morrow, Kregel Publications, 2010, Paperback

We would like ALL students to have "I Don't Have Enough Faith..." even though for assignments, 7-8th grade students do not have to read it (it is optional reading)



**7th-8th Grades Only (in addition to the 2 above):** Geisler, Norman L. and Joseph Holden. *Living Loud: Defending Your Faith*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002.



**(7-8th Grades MUST Do end of chapter "Review Questions")**

## RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Copan, Paul, Editor. *Contending with Christianity's Critics: Answering New Atheists and Other Objectors*. B & H Publishing Group, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_. *True For You But Not For Me*. Bethany House, 2009.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: Macmillan, 1952.

## RECOMMENDED WEB SITES FOR RESEARCH, STUDY, & ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS:

- <http://crossexamined.org>
- <http://www.dougbeaumont.org/SoulDevice/index.htm>
- <http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/bib-docu.html>
- <http://www.probe.org/>
- <http://www.equip.org/>
- <http://www.christiananswers.net>
- <http://www.carm.org/>
- <http://apologeticsindex.org/>
- <http://www.ankerberg.com/>
- <http://answers.org/>
- <http://www.letusreason.org>
- <http://str.org>
- [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)
- [www.allaboutgod.com](http://www.allaboutgod.com)
- [www.tektonics.org](http://www.tektonics.org)
- [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)
- [www.rationalchristianity.net](http://www.rationalchristianity.net)
- [www.christian-thinktank.com](http://www.christian-thinktank.com)
- [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)
- [www.tektonics.org/index2.html](http://www.tektonics.org/index2.html)
- [www.carm.org/bible\\_difficulties.htm](http://www.carm.org/bible_difficulties.htm)
- [www.rationalchristianity.net/apol\\_index.html](http://www.rationalchristianity.net/apol_index.html)
- <http://debate.org.uk/topics/apolog/contrads.htm>
- [www.answering-islam.org/Bible/Contra/index.html](http://www.answering-islam.org/Bible/Contra/index.html)
- [www.christian-thinktank.com/hway.html](http://www.christian-thinktank.com/hway.html)
- <http://allaboutscience.org>
- [http://www.xenu.net/\(SCIENTOLOGY\)](http://www.xenu.net/(SCIENTOLOGY))
- <http://www.answersingenesis.org>
- <http://creation.com/>
- [http://www.icr.org/\(CREATION VS EVOLUTION\)](http://www.icr.org/(CREATION VS EVOLUTION))
- [http://www.drdino.com/\(CREATION VS EVOLUTION\)](http://www.drdino.com/(CREATION VS EVOLUTION))

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. **The student will be able to articulate and define apologetics both biblically and practically.**
2. **The student will be able to identify self-defeating statements by skeptics, atheists, and others and will be able to competently state why the Christian Faith is the only logical system of truth.**
3. **The student will be able to understand why atheists and other skeptics are so adamant to destroy the faith of Christians and how illogical, misdirected, erroneous, and deceptive their beliefs are.**
4. **The student will be able to interact with Christians who are doubting and/or questioning their faith while also having an ability to effectively answer their doubts and false statements. This will allow the student to be more adept at identifying the barriers to faith which will often cause the skeptic to listen to the Gospel.**
5. **The student will be able to give good arguments for the following:**
  - Truth is knowable and absolute
  - God Exists (and we can know Him)

- Miracles are possible
  - The NT is True, Reliable, and Inspired
6. **The student will be able to effectively defend the Christian faith especially in reference to the mission statement of ApologiaAcademy and Apologia Educational Ministries.**

The mission of Apologia Educational Ministries is to provide products, resources, and services that help homeschool students and families learn, live, and defend the Christian faith.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS for ALL Students (7th-12 Grades, College through Adults):**

1. **WEEKLY:** Class participation and Attendance: 5% of final grade.  
All students be expected to participate in discussions, and q&a. For the preparation of each class period the student will be expected to have completed all assignments.
2. **WEEKLY:** Text reading assignments (IDHEF, IGJAH): 25% of final grade  
For the preparation of each class period the student must have read all assigned pages in the textbook(s). Prior to each class session students will post their reading completion on their student portal page. Texts are to be read according to the attached "details" chart. **Student's in 7-8 Grades can opt out of reading IDHEF, but must read Living Loud INCLUDING answering the Review Questions. If they choose IDHEF, they do NOT need to read Living Loud.**
3. **MONTHLY:** Apologetics Research Reports: 20% of final grade.  
Monthly reports will consist of 1-2 page summaries (single-spaced) of research from the internet or other noted sources (full documentation of resources must be included). You may choose to report from one or both of the following (reports are to be emailed prior to the beginning of class on the due date - a sample will be available during the first class):
  - a. Topics found in your text books, and/or
  - b. Topics of apologetic value in which you have an interest.
4. **MID/END OF SEMESTER:** Open Book Mid-term exam and final exam: 40% of final grade.
5. **END OF SEMESTER:** Field Work – Interviews - ALL students: 1 Interview, completed by TBA date: 10% of final grade. All students must identify a pastor and/or other Christian leaders whom they respect and along with your parent(s) interview them using the following questions (provided to you the first or second week of class).

**EXTRA CREDIT FOR 7-8th GRADES ONLY:**

**You may read "I Don't Have Enough Faith..." for extra credit.**

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# ASSIGNMENTS, TOPICS, READING CHART

	TOPIC	WEEKLY READINGS	EXAMS
<b>SEPTEMBER 2011</b>	<b>Introduction to Apologetics</b>	(readings and weekly lessons/lectures will NOT necessarily coincide)	
MISC INFORMATION >>	<p>*IDHEF = I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist</p> <p>*LL=Living Loud</p> <p>*IGJAHl=Is God/Invention</p>	<p>1. IGJAHl</p> <p>2. IDHEF</p> <p>3. LL (NOT for 9-Adult)</p>	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p>Monthly=4 total</p>
Week 1 Sept 12 & 14	<p>1. Class INTRO</p> <p>2. APOLOGETICS: What, Why, &amp; How</p>	<p><b>All homework is</b></p> <p><b>"DUE TODAY"</b></p>	
Week 2 Sept 19 & 21	Truth About Reality is Knowable: Absolutes, Relativism, The Road Runner	<p><b>DUE TODAY:</b></p> <p>1. *IGJAHl: Intro/Ch 1</p> <p>2. *IDHEF Intro/Ch 1</p> <p>3. LL: Intro-Ch1 &amp; Review Q's</p>	
Week 3 Sept 26 & 28	In The Beginning There Was A Great S.U.R.G.E. – The Universe Had a Beginning?	<p>1. IGJAHl: Ch 2</p> <p>2. IDHEF Ch 2</p> <p>3. LL: 2 &amp; Review Q's</p>	
Week 4 Oct 3 & 5	Does God Exist? Three Great Arguments for the Existence of God	<p>1. IGJAHl: Chs 3-4</p> <p>2. IDHEF Ch 3-4</p> <p>3. LL: 3 &amp; Review Q's</p>	<p><b>Monthly Research #1</b></p>
Week 5 Oct 10 & 12	Does God Exist? Intelligent Design or No One Created Something from Nothing?	<p>1. IGJAHl: Chs 5-6</p> <p>2. IDHEF Ch 5</p> <p>3. LL: 4 &amp; Review Q's</p>	
Week 6 Oct 17 & 19	Does God Exist? From the Goo to You by way of The Zoo!	<p>1. IGJAHl: Ch 7</p> <p>2. IDHEF Ch 6</p> <p>3. LL: 5 &amp; Review Q's</p>	
Week 7 Oct 24 & 26	Does God Exist? Morality – Who is Better: Hitler or Billy Graham – and Does it Matter?	<p>1. IGJAHl: Chs 8-9</p> <p>2. IDHEF Ch 7</p> <p>3. LL: 6 &amp; Review Q's</p>	<p><b>Monthly Research #2</b></p>
Week 8 Oct 31 & Nov 2	<p>MID-TERM REVIEW and</p> <p>(Catch-up – no, not the condiment! Any class catching up, reviews, etc.)</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">Reading Week</p> <p>Time to Catch up on reading</p> <p><b>- IDHEF Ch 8</b></p>	<p><b>MID-TERM EXAM</b></p>

Week 9 Nov 7 & 9	If God Exists, Miracles Are Possible: Do OT/NT Miracles Confirm Gods Existence, and/or Confirm a Message?	1. IGJAH: Ch 10 2. IDHEF Ch 9-10 3. LL: 7 & Review Q's	
Week 10 Nov 14 & 16	Is the New Testament Historically Reliable and God-Breathed? Part I – Early Testimony	1. IGJAH: Chs 11-12 2. IDHEF Ch 11 3. LL: 8 & Review Q's	<b>Monthly Research #3</b>
<b>BREAK Nov 19-27</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
Week 11 Nov 28 & 30	Is the New Testament Historically Reliable and God-Breathed? Part II – Eyewitness Testimony	1. IGJAH: Ch 13 2. IDHEF Ch 12 3. LL: 9 & Review Q's	
Week 12 Dec 5 & 7	Is the New Testament Historically Reliable and God-Breathed? Part III – Did Jesus Claim to be God?	1. IGJAH: Ch 14 2. IDHEF Ch 13 3. LL: 10 & Review Q's	
Week 13 Dec 12 & 14	Is the New Testament Historically Reliable and God-Breathed? Part IV – The Resurrection: Fact, Fiction, or Foolish?	1. IGJAH: Chs 15-16 2. IDHEF Ch 14 3. LL: 11 & Review Q's	
<b>BREAK Dec 17-Jan 1, 2012</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
Week 14 Jan 2 & 4	Jesus Taught that the Bible Is the Word of God. Is it?  Final Exam Preview	1. IGJAH: Chs 17-18 2. IDHEF Ch 15 3. LL: 12 & Review Q's	<b>Last Report: Monthly Research #4  Interview Project Due Today</b>
Week 15 Jan 9 & 11	Therefore, It is True that the Bible is the Word of God, and Anything Opposed to it is False!	1. IGJAH: Conclusion - appendices A,B,C 2. IDHEF Appendices 1,2,3 3. LL: 13 & Review Q's	<b>FINAL EXAM DUE</b>