



APOLOGETICS: ENGAGING WORLDVIEWS

Dr. Theodore A. Turnau
June 21 – July 2, 2010

ABOUT PROFESSOR:

Ph.D. Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. Has extensively lectured and written on Culture&Media, Comparative Religion and Postmodern theories. Currently Teaches on Popular Culture and Media Theory in Center for Media Studies (CEMES), Charles University, Prague and is lecturer in Social Sciences and Humanities in Anglo -American College, Czech Republic. Since February 2003, serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

ABOUT THE COURSE:

This course is broken into three major parts. Part I will provide the student with an understanding of the field of study in general, and the approach of one important perspective on apologetics in particular (known as the “presuppositional school”). We shall examine biblical background materials, and the writings of several theologians (including Calvin). We shall use popular culture as a case study. In part II will examine topoi of current interest in Protestant apologetics, and the response of the presuppositional school. In part III, we will examine various problematics for apologetics from a Reformed perspective (such as: identity, religious relativism, problem of evil). The overall goal of this class is to acquaint the student thoroughly with apologetics from this particular Reformational perspective.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT:

1. Class attendance and participation in discussion.
2. *Required readings*
3. 2- 5 pages long report on Thom Notaro: “*Van Til and the Use of Evidence*”
4. Final examination (“open book” written essay).

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Keller, Timothy J. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Dutton, 2008.
2. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, edited by John T. McNeill, translated by Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960), excerpts as follows: Book I, chapters 1-3, 5-7, and 9 (paragraphs 2-3); Book II, chapter 2 (paragraphs 12-17).
3. William Edgar, *Reasons of the Heart* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996), entire.
4. Thom Notaro, *Van Til and the Use of Evidence* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1980), entire.
5. L. Russ Bush, editor, *Classical Readings in Christian Apologetics: A.D. 100-1800* (Academie/Zondervan, 1983), excerpts as follows:
 Anselm (pages 249-54)
 Thomas Aquinas (pages 277-280, 294-300)
 William Paley, (pp. 349-365).
6. Greg L. Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetic: Readings and Analysis* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1998), chapter 9 and appendices (pages 698-733).
7. Theodore A. Turnau III, “Reflecting Theologically on Popular Culture as Meaningful: The Roles of Sin, Grace and General Revelation,” *Calvin Theological Journal* 37, no. 2 (November 2002): 270-296.
8. **Highly recommended, but not required:** Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Lament for a Son* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987).

ABOUT THE CLASSES:

Riga	Vilnius
Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary, Akas Str. 13, 18:00 – 21:00	Lietuvos Evangeliku Reformatu Baznyca , Pylimo 20 18:00 – 21:00

REGISTRATION / INFORMATION:

contact@brts.edu.lv, t.: (371) 7225516/ (371) 29231144, www.brts.edu.lv

AUDITORS WELCOME !

THE COURSE OUTLINE

Class Number	Subject
1	An Introduction to the Field of Apologetics
2	Biblical Background Materials for the Reformational Perspective on Apologetics
3	Epistemological Contours of the Presuppositional Approach
4	The Presuppositional Argument
5	The Phenomenon of Popular Culture in Postmodernity: A Case Study
6	A Presuppositional Response to Classical Apologetics: The Ontological and Cosmological Arguments for God's Existence
7	A Presuppositional Response to Evidentialist Apologetics I: Design and Darwinism
8	A Presuppositional Response to Evidentialist Apologetics II: The Case for the Resurrection
9	Problematics in Reformational Apologetics I: Identity
10	Problematics in Reformational Apologetics II: Postmodernism and Religious Relativism
11	Problematics in Reformational Apologetics III: The Problem of Evil
12	Conclusions and Review