

#331 Theology 5: Apologetics & Ethics
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Spring 2022

COURSE INFORMATION

Course objectives

This course is designed to enable you to be familiar with the primary schools of thought regarding apologetics and ethics and with the biblical support offered for each scheme, to be especially familiar with the reformed teachings in these areas, to have formulated your own approach to these areas, and to be able to defend scripturally your approach. You will have read standard explanations of the various schools of apologetics and have studied the important biblical passages related to apologetics.

You also will be familiar with the content of the Ten Commandments and to their application to personal and social ethics. These goals will be achieved through lectures, readings, class assignments and discussions.

Course outcomes

By successfully completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the main different schools of apologetics and give the reasons for each
2. Give oral or written defenses of the biblical theism and the Christian religion
3. Answer the primary objections advanced against belief in God or the Bible
4. Understand and enunciate the strengths and differences of using the presuppositional approach on one hand, and classical and biblical arguments on the other
5. Pass parts of ordination exams dealing with apologetics and ethics
6. Preach or teach Bible lessons on Christian ethics in general and on the Ten Commandments in particular
7. Intelligently discuss critical contemporary issues from a biblical perspective

Attendance

Since class discussion is an important part of this course, attendance is very important. School policy allows one unexcused absence; additional absences or tardiness may lower the final grade.

Reading assignments

Assignment #1

- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, Part I, Theology, Ch. 1-3
- A. Hodge, *Confession of Faith*, Ch. 19-24
- Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M. Bowman, Jr., *Faith Has Its Reasons* (including Appendix A)
- PLUS, 10 hours elective reading in apologetics

Assignment #2

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 2, Ch. 7-8; Book 3, Ch. 6-10 [also known as *The Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life*], Ch. 19; and Book 4, Ch. 20
- *Westminster Larger Catechism*, #91-151
- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 3, Part 3, Ch. 19, “The Law”
- PLUS, 15 hours elective reading in ethics

Grading

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| • Reading Assignment #1 | 15% |
| • Reading Assignment #2 | 15% |
| • Midterm Examination (Apologetics section) | 25% |
| • Final Examination (Ethics section) | 25% |
| • Class attendance and participation | 20% |

Course schedule

Aug.	31	Introduction to the course
Sept.	7	
	14	
	21	(G. W. Presbytery – no class)
	28	

Oct.	5	Reading Assignment #1 due
	12	
	19	Midterm Examination
	26	
Nov.	2	
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
Dec.	7	Reading Assignment #2 due
	14	Final Examination