School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	**Apologetics**
Unit Code	273 (Distance learning version 8273)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Rev. Seidel Abel Boanerges
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines the meaning of apologetics and assesses its place in the ministry of individuals and local churches within the contemporary context. It explores apologetic approaches to some classic issues, such as the existence of God, the problem of evil, the resurrection and the relationship between science and faith. It examines the role of dialogue in evangelism, conversation with other faith traditions and non-religious ideologies, the relationship between persuasion and the freedom to choose and the importance of 'civility'. It asks whether apologetics is still relevant in a postmodern context and, if so, in what form.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To equip students to identify objections to Christian faith within contemporary culture and to offer informed and intelligent responses to them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Identify common objections and barriers to faith in contemporary culture and possible responses to them

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Draw creatively on Christian apologetic traditions to interact with alternative ideologies in contemporary contexts

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Construct coherent apologetic responses to a range of contemporary issues in a civil and informed manner

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Locate, analyse and utilise relevant information

Employability Skills

This unit develops students' skills to engage in public debate and discussion by constructing a coherent argument, listening carefully to the views of others and responding to them in a coherent and civil manner

SYLLABUS

1. Apologetics and evangelism
2. Apologetics in contemporary context
3. Believing in God
4. The problem of evil
5. Science and faith: The Dawkins delusion
6. Group project: The historicity of Jesus
7. Group project: The resurrection of Jesus
8. Group project: Experience of God
9. Apologetics and the New Age
10. Christianity and modern myths
11. Civility and certainty

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

273: Interactive lectures and group work
8273: Distance learning
Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 273: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
• 8273: An essay plan	500 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 273: An essay	2500 words	100%
• 8273: An essay	2500 words	100%
and a learning journal*		Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has		

been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (273 Only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as Free Choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

Campbell-Jack, C., et al, *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics* (Leicester: IVP, 2006)
Cottingham, John, *Why Believe?* (London: Continuum, 2009)
Craig, William Lane, *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008)
Fergusson, David, *Faith and its Critics: A conversation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)
Hart, David Bentley, *Atheist Delusions: The Christian revolution and its fashionable enemies* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2009)
Keller, Timothy J. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Scepticism* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2008)
McGrath, A., *Bridge Building: Communicating Christianity Effectively* (Leicester: IVP, 1992)
McGrath, Alister E., *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers and Skeptics Find Faith* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011)
McGrath, A., and J. McGrath, *The Dawkins Delusion? Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine* (London: SPCK. 2007)
Sampson, P.J., *Six Modern Myths Challenging Christian Faith* (Leicester: IVP, 2000)
Sinkinson, C., *Confident Christianity: Conversations That Lead to the Cross* (Nottingham: IVP, 2012)
Stackhouse, J.G., *Humble Apologetics: Defending the Faith Today* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)
Taylor, James E., *Introducing Apologetics: Cultivating Christian commitment* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006)
Ward, Keith, *The Big Questions in Science and Religion* (Pennsylvania: Templeton Foundation Press, 2008)

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (N/A for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

N/A

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	