



SPURGEON COLLEGE

U-HM 304 CLD NEO SP21 Philosophy of Religion (Apologetics)
Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD)
Heartland Church Network
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2021

I. Class Information

The approximate course load for this class will equal approximately 135 hours

Logistics:

Start and End Dates: January 28, 2021 – May 6, 2021

Class Times: Thursdays, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Class Location: Online or 3245 T Street, Lincoln NE 68503

Contact Information:

Instructor Name, Title, and Credentials: Dr. Adam Lloyd Johnson, PhD

Instructor Contact Info: 1freedbyjesus@gmail.com

Additional Contact Info: 803-415-1998

Approximate Course Load: 30 Hours

II. Course Description

This course will offer a provisional study of the major issues in religion, including the existence of God, the problem of evil, freedom and determinism, and religious language

III. Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Examine, reconstruct, and assess arguments for and against the existence of God in light of Scriptural teaching
2. Examine, reconstruct, and assess arguments regarding the problem of evil in light of Scriptural teaching
3. Examine, reconstruct, and assess arguments regarding freedom and determinism in light of Scriptural teaching
4. Examine, reconstruct, and assess arguments regarding religious languages in light of Scriptural teaching

All instruction, activities, and assessments in this class will relate to one or more of these course objectives.

IV. Textbooks and Required Reading

Textbooks:

Moreland, J.P. *Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*. Revised Edition. NavPress, 2012. 304 pages. Approximately 20 Hours.

Ganssle, Gregory. *Thinking About God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004. 187 pages. Approximately 12.5 Hours.

Turek, Frank and Norman Geisler. *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2004. 448 pages. Approximately 30 Hours.

Recommended Reading:

Peterson, Michael L., ed. *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. Fifth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Approximate Course Load: 62.5 Hours

V. Assignments

Instructor will provide details concerning rubrics, formatting, submission, and due dates.

A. *Tests* 40%

There will be two tests during the semester. These tests will cover the presentations given by the Instructor. They will include multiple essay questions. Approximate Course Load: 20 Hours.

B. *Research Paper* 30%

Each student will be required to write a 2,500 word paper making an apologetic argument for a truth of Christianity. For example, a student could argue for the truth of Jesus' resurrection by providing historical evidence. Or a student could argue for the existence of God using the design argument (more scientific issues). Or a student could explain how the existence of evil in the world doesn't contradict the existence of God (more philosophical issues). The student is encouraged to pick a topic they have struggled themselves or an objection to Christianity they have encountered while trying to share their faith. Approximate Course Load: 10 Hours.

C. *Chapter Summaries or Discussion Questions* 20%

Each week the students will be required to write chapter summaries for the reading assigned for that week. These homework assignments are due by the start of class on the date noted on the Assignment Schedule below. Students should always bring hard (paper) copies of completed assignments to class. Approximate Course Load: 10 Hours

D. *Class Participation and Attendance* 10%

Interaction with the materials through active attendance and participation in classroom discussion is vital for the successful completion of this class. Unauthorized use of cell phones (taking phone calls, texting, playing games, etc.), computers (ie. Web surfing, playing games, working on non-class systematic theology related assignments, etc.), and other electronic devices will result in a significant deduction of points. Absence from class will adversely affect participation grade.

Approximate Course Load: 40 Hours

Total Approximate Course Load: 132.5 Hours

VI. Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	59 or less

VII. Class Schedule

The instructor will provide students a class schedule with due dates for all assignments before instruction, reading, assignments, or activities begin.

VIII. General Information

1. Questions regarding this syllabus, class schedule, or class policies should be addressed to the instructor. The instructor of this class reserves the right to reasonably amend the details of this syllabus as needed. It will be the responsibility of the instructor to communicate any changes to all students with appropriate notice. It will be the responsibility of the student to inquire about apparent discrepancies or request further detail.
2. Plagiarism is a serious ethical and legal matter, and instances of plagiarism will result in an “F” for an assignment and possibly an “F” for the course. Students are to read and abide by the section entitled “Integrity in Theological Studies” in t.
3. Spurgeon College is committed to facilitating students with disabilities. Students seeking effective auxiliary aids for a current documented disability—including exams, classroom participation, or assignments—should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or term in order for special arrangements to be considered. Students should conform with institutional policies and procedures as listed in the Midwestern Students with Disabilities Information Brochure, available at <http://www.mbts.edu/consumer-information>.

4. Class Attendance: Attendance is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. **Absences, for any reason, should not exceed 25% of the total class time.** Withdrawal from the course is required after a student is absent from more than 25% of the class sessions, except in cases of confining illnesses or serious circumstance.

5. In Christian higher education institutions, it can be assumed that each believer-learner is at a different place of personal maturity and educational preparedness. For these reasons, it is requested and expected that each student exhibits mutual respect, even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Students should refrain from behaviors that negatively affect the teaching environment. Students should conduct themselves as ministerial professionals who give, and are worthy of, a high level of respect.