

Syllabus:

Class 1:

Class 1: intro to apologetics: what am I getting into?

-We can initiate with some sort of activity (like the arguments you got from various people), and perhaps see how people (volunteers from the class) would respond. or break up into teams, and do some role playing...thus demonstrating use of apologetics.

-We'd formally define apologetics, get feedback from students as to what they're expecting (or vice versa), and briefly go over the

syllabus (a final copy of the syllabus), and take time to learn about ea. student, and incorporate some of their questions/interests

into the course (possibly).

-We'd also want to go over "etiquette" as to how various "argumentation" is to be conducted...it may be a good idea to actually define what it is....and perhaps we may want to spill over into some preliminaries...

Pool of issues to cover throughout the course, and it'll be expected to "spill over" into multiple topics also:

\*Code of Intellectual Conduct for Effective Discussion:

-Fallibility Principle, Truth-Seeking Principle, Clarity Principle, burden-of-Proof Principle...

\*Nature of Knowledge and truth: definition, scope, & limitations + case studies & applications

Terms to discuss: a priori, a posteriori, cause, effect, certainty, proof, science, law, theory

\*Definition of Argumentation & Strengths of Arguments: Deductive vs. Inductive + case studies/applications

-Arguments & factors affecting reliability

\*A Logic Primer: the Structure of reasoning + case studies/applications

-Truth tables & values of propositions, conjunctions, negation, contradictions, conditionals

-implication, inference, quantifiers, exceptions, validity, soundness, premise, conclusion...

\*Methods of Proof—Direct & Indirect Methods + case studies/applications

-Methods of how to prove and disprove a claim

\*Formal and Informal Fallacies + case studies/applications

-categorization of the various kinds of mistakes in reasoning or argumentative strategy.

-MANY Fallacies violating the Relevance, Acceptability, Sufficiency, & Rebuttal Criteria.

\*Classic arguments concerning the existence of God

-Anticipating rebuttals to produce the most “air tight” proofs

\*Arguments concerning the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

\*Alleged contradictions to & in the Scripture—historical, archaeological, textual, epistemological

\*Multidisciplined support for creationism/bible from physics, astronomy, biology, geology, archaeology, math

\*Evolution/anthropology, creationism, intelligent design: defined and analyzed/particular cases examined.

-physicalism, naturalism, uniformitarianism, time, chance,

\*Argumentative prowess of the Lord Jesus Christ.

\*Masquerading Religion: reasons not to believe other beliefs (this topic is tentative).