

ACU COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 407/417.01: EXISTENCE OF GOD: REASON AND EVIDENCE

WEEKLY COLLOQUIUM: AUG 31-OCT 5

FALL 2015

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Instructors:	Dr. Ryan Jessup Assistant Professor of Management College of Business Administration	Dr. John Homer Associate Professor of Computer Science School of Information Technology & Computing
Office Hours:	MW: 1:30-3:30; T: 9:30-11, 1:00-2:30; Or By Appointment	MTW: 2:00 – 4:30
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Classroom: 316 Mabee Business (BA)

Course Description: What evidence is there outside the bible for Jesus' existence? Was there anything unique or countercultural about the laws Moses presented to the Israelites? Is there any indication of God's existence beyond our own emotional impulses or the desire of parents to make their children behave?

This colloquium will meet over five weekly sessions, focusing chiefly on apologetics for the existence of God. Additionally, extra-biblical evidences for the historicity of Christ as well as an examination of the uniqueness of commands from the Law of Moses will be introduced. We will discuss these ideas and their relevance to our own personal understanding of God in light of a western worldview that is increasingly combative against those who profess belief.

I Peter 3:15 NIV: But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Our Goals for Students in this Class:

- To recognize and understand classic apologetic arguments
- To have a better understanding and recognition of common logical fallacies
- To better understand how both theism and atheism require faith
- To understand how it is possible to accept most or all of scientific findings and still believe in God without needing to check your reason at the door of the church
- To experience interactions with less favorable audiences while engaging in these arguments

ADA Statement: Abilene Christian University and The College of Business Administration comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with disability. If you have an established disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities

Act and would like to request accommodation, please see me as soon as possible.

Format: Class time will generally consist of class discussion, student presentations, brief professor presentations, and experiential exercises.

Prerequisites: None

Recommended Text: Craig, W. L. (2015). On Guard for Students: A Thinker's Guide to the Christian Faith. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook

Grade Composition: Your grade will be computed on the following basis:

Activity	Value
Presentation	20%
Course Reflection Paper	20%
Final Paper	20%
Attendance	20%
Participation	20%

Grading System

Letter Grade	Semester Combined Average
A	90 or above
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	Below 60

Course Assignments and Policies:

Presentation

Students will be expected to engage in an online forum with not necessarily receptive audiences. In this presentation they will discuss their experience.

Course Reflection Paper

Students will complete a 2-4 page reflection paper on the entire course within one month of the course completion. Students will be expected to reflect on the course as a whole and also highlight a few topics of particular interest to them. If nothing was of interest, ideas for curriculum improvement may instead be offered.

Final Paper

Students will complete one of the following:

- A) Online Report: A report showing their online interactions with a not necessarily receptive audience followed with a 3 page (max) summary of the interaction, addressing (a) what they did right, (b) what they did wrong, (c) how they could improve, and (d) any outstanding questions.
- B) Argument Analysis: A 3 page (max) summary of one of the arguments, going beyond what was covered in class.

Participation

Participation is essential to the success of this learning experience and will be considered an important element in the evaluation process. This includes your involvement in class discussion, having a good attitude, providing feedback during and after presentations, and completion of in-class assignments. A participation score will be awarded based on preparedness, attentiveness and appropriate contribution to discussion.

Attendance

Due to the compressed nature of the course, attendance at all hours is expected.

Academic Dishonesty

See COBA Honor Code below.

Honor Code ACU College of Business Administration

► *Objective*

COBA faculty, staff and students will strive to proclaim in their lives competence, character and community. In joining COBA, students, faculty, and staff covenant to abide by the following ethical principles.

► *Competence*

To lead and serve well requires competence. And to become competent requires diligence and hard work. We owe it to all who have prepared the way and who will follow in our footsteps, to be good stewards of opportunities and resources. Thus, in all you do: set priorities, seek excellence and professionalism in your work, satisfy requirements, and take responsibility for your learning and performance. You cannot build competence if you lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.

► *Character*

A reputation of good character is built slowly through testing, yet can be destroyed in an instant by compromise or careless work, just as it can through injustice. Guard your character; it is worth more than a grade or promotion. “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold” (Proverbs 22:1). You cannot build character if you lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.

► *Community*

A spirit of fellowship and mutual encouragement holds each community member accountable. Accountability leads to a healthy community through adequate preparations for the tasks at hand, respectful truthfulness in all situations, and adding value to the tasks at hand. As a community, we must hold each other accountable to the principles of competence, character, and community. You cannot build community if you lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.

We support ACU’s Academic Integrity Policy

(www.acu.edu/campusoffices/studentlife/documents/Acad_Integ_Policy_Fa.pdf). This important policy offers examples of academic infractions and a process for assigning consequences and voicing appeals. Ignorance of this policy is never an excuse. Individual instructors will define course specific definitions, however, in general you should avoid:

- 1) **Plagiarism** - Copying or even paraphrasing words or ideas from another source (including current or past students) without giving adequate credit.
- 2) **Lying** - Inventing data or sources or making false attributions about the origin of material or offering a deceptive reason for an absence or delay in the completion of academic work.
- 3) **Cheating** - Facilitating or participating in any process that circumvents the intent of any exam, test, quiz, paper, or assignment.

Any dishonest act observed or reported will be investigated and if proven, be reported in administrative offices and records, and may be subject to any or all of the following outcomes based on severity:

- 1) A zero for the assigned work
- 2) A failing grade for the course
- 3) Dismissal from the university

Ratified by Faculty: 11/18/2004

Tentative Class Outline

DATE	CLASS ACTIVITY
Mon Aug 31	Week 1: Introduction to Logic and Meaning
	Introduction to Logical Arguments & Fallacies
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
	Futility of Life without God
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
Mon Sep 07	Week 2: Morals and Ontology
	The Moral Argument
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
	The Ontological Argument
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
Mon Sep 14	Week 3: Science
	The Kalam Cosmological Argument
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
	The Teleological Argument
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
Mon Sep 28	Week 4: Introduction
	Laws of Moses – Countercultural Ideas
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
	Extra-biblical Evidence for Jesus' Existence
	<i>Student Discussion</i>
Mon Oct 05	Week 5: Student Discussion Presentations
	<i>Student Presentations</i>
	Concluding Thoughts and Wrap-up