

**PUBLIC SYLLABUS**  
**Regent University, Fall 2006**

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Joint Appointment in GOV, LAW, DIV

1. COURSE NAME (a DIV course, crosslisted in GOV):

**TCDH523/GOV650 Christian Apologetics (3 hours)**

2. COURSE TIME: 6:00p-8:50p, Wednesdays, 30Aug-13Dec, 2006

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION: **TCDH523/GOV650 Christian Apologetics (3 hours)**

A survey of the philosophical methodologies used in the defense of the Christian faith, especially evidentialism (facts to faith) and presuppositionalism (faith to facts), focusing on the relationship between faith and reason in current Catholic and Protestant defenses, and with Biblical applications to modern and postmodern challenges. (No former training in philosophy is assumed, and all schools are welcome.)

4. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (copies of this one book have already been ordered at the Regent Bookstore):

GEISLER, Norman L. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000. ISBN 0-8010-2151-0 (hardback), vii+841pp.

Note: this *one* encyclopedia is almost of the same length (791 pages of actual text) as the *two* textbooks used in 2003: the first text being Cowan on apologetic methodology, and the second text being Kreeft & Tacelli on applied apologetics (which two texts have a total of 773 pages). Further, this encyclopedia amply covers both methodology and application, with much more information and many more topics, all in an easier style and with superb organization. All of the encyclopedia will be read, but not alphabetically (i.e. not straight through), but topically at the instructor's assigned sequence (see assignments, below).

5. ASSIGNMENTS:

5.1 Read and discuss (in class) the following (which text will be supplied in class by the instructor, with his translations and annotations added to the margins): *FIDES ET RATIO* [FAITH AND REASON]. Encyclical Letter *Fides et Ratio* of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Relationship between Faith and Reason. Saint Peter's, Rome: 14 September, 1998. 61 pp.

5.2 Read all of the required *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Each of its 322 articles (each approximately one, two or three pages long) in the encyclopedia will be read in alphabetical) sequence and at the pace that the instructor requires throughout the semester (approximately 66 pages per week).

5.3 Write an Apologetics Reflection Notebook. The book will be read in alphabetic sequence, and on each article the student is required to choose one or more points of interest (depending on the length and importance of the article, as well as the student's interest and competence), summarize each chosen point, and give a reflection on that point. These thoughts are to be typed up, printed out and shared week by week in the discussion with the class, and submitted to the instructor at the end of each class. This keeps the student accountable to the scheduled pace of reading, writing and discussion. These thoughts will be returned to each student at the beginning of the next class, which each student is to store in their own Apologetics Reflection Notebook (ARN).

6. ASSESSMENTS:

The ARN, to be submitted at the last class, is worth 100% of the total grade. There are no quizzes or examinations. Lack of attendance or participation will be reflected only in possible demerits against the total grade, as will lateness in the scheduled reading & writing due week by week. END