

## *Evidences – AP121/521*

*Spring Semester, 2008*

Sat., 9:00-10:40 AM

### I. Instructor

Rev. Eric D. Bristley, Th.M.

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### II. Course description

An investigation into the use of evidences in apologetics. Issues of concern are the value of evidences, the historical reliability of the Bible, and textual criticism. Attention will be given to the philosophical deficiencies of the theory of evolution.

Two hours credit.

### III. Required Texts

Henry M. Morris, *Many Infallible Proofs: Evidences for the Christian Faith*. Master Books, 1974.

Thom Notaro, *Van Til and the Use of Evidence*. P&R, 1980.

Ken Ham (editor), *The New Answers Book*. Master Books, 2007.

### IV. Recommended Readings

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ*. Zondervan, 1998.

Jonathan Sarfati, *Refuting Evolution*. Master Books, 1999.

Josh McDowell, *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. Thomas Nelson, 1999.

### V. Course Requirements

**Attendance.** Students are expected to attend all classes. In the event of unavoidable absence, the student should seek excuse from the instructor beforehand. Two excused absences are permitted without a reduction in grade. Recipients of Mission to the City Scholarships with more than two unexcused absences will be billed full cost for the course (policy).

**Readings.** Students are expected to do the assigned readings (see requirements for Tests below). Note: Graduate students should read at least one of the titles from the Recommended Reading list above, or an approved title.

**Online Resources.** At [www.cityseminary.org](http://www.cityseminary.org)

**Term Paper.** Students will be required to write a term paper on a key topic of evidences or a detailed review of a significant book on Christian evidences. Papers should be at least ten (10) pages, excluding title page, table of contents, and bibliography, and follow Kate L. Turabian's Style Manual. For Graduate students, papers should be at least sixteen (16) pages. Topics need to be approved midway through the course. Term papers are due at the Final Exam and will count as 30 percent of the student's grade.

**Tests.** There will be a total of two examinations in this course: a Mid-Term Exam and a Final Exam. These examinations will cover the lecture material, discussions, and reading assignments. Each exam will count as 35 percent of the student's grade. Students will also be asked to affirm on each exam that they have read all assignments to date. Students who cannot make such an affirmation will receive a 15 percent reduction of grade on the exam.

## V. Class Lecture Schedule and Assignments

**Meeting Time:** The class meets for approximately two hours each Saturday morning from 9:00-10:40 AM.

**Dates:** The class will commence on January 12 and conclude near the end of April (exact date TBA). There will be no class on March 26 since the seminary will observe a spring break for Easter.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan. 12	<b>1. Christian Evidences: Value, Use and Limits.</b> <i>Evidential and presuppositional apologetics, factuality and history, logic and empirical data, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of History</i>	Notaro, ch. 1–8 Morris, ch. 1
Jan. 19	<b>2. Evidence for the Bible: Documentary and Literary.</b> <i>Genuineness, integrity, authenticity, canonicity, transmission, historical reliability, answering criticisms, responding to alleged discrepancies, unity</i>	Morris, ch. 3, 12, 13
Jan. 26	<b>3. Evidence for the Bible: Archeological and Historical.</b> <i>Reliability, accuracy, and verification, factual confirmation, geography, cities, culture, artifacts, Old and New Testament archeology</i>	Morris, ch. 20, 15-16 Ham, 25
Feb. 2	<b>4. Evidence for the Bible: Fulfilled Prophecy in History.</b> <i>Omniscience of God, revelation and the future, providence and history, Messianic prophesy</i>	Morris, ch. 14
Feb. 9	<b>5. Evidence for God the Creator: Intelligent Design.</b> <i>Mathematical order, physics, aesthetic argument, Rom. 1, general revelation and natural theology, theistic proofs, answering atheism, cosmogony</i>	Morris, 17 Ham, 1–5
Feb. 16	<b>MID-TERM EXAM / TOPICS APPROVED</b>	
Feb. 23	<b>6. Evidence for Creation: Scientific Evidences.</b> <i>Ecological evidences, the privileged planet, unity of creation, earth's environment, correspondence to reality, fitness for life</i>	Ham, 6–10
Mar. 1	<b>7. Evidence for Creation: Genetics and Biology.</b> <i>The origin of life, creation of human life vs. evolution, transformation, mutations, species and kinds, genetic code</i>	Morris, ch. 17 Ham, 11–16
Mar. 8	<b>8. Evidence for Creation: Answering Evolutionism.</b> <i>Laws, theories, and facts; Scientism, random chance, materialism and determinism, natural selection, survival of the fittest</i>	Morris, ch. 18-19 Ham, 17–23
Mar. 15	<b>9. Evidence for the Flood: Geological Evidences.</b> <i>Catastrophism vs. uniformitarianism, fossil record, dating methods, paleontology</i>	Morris, ch. 10-11
Mar. 22	<b>NO CLASS—EASTER BREAK</b>	
Mar. 29	<b>10. Evidence for Christ: Miracles and the Resurrection.</b> <i>Case for miracles, supernaturalism, miracles in OT and NT, signs, historicity, witnesses to Christ, the empty tomb</i>	Morris, ch. 5-8 Notaro, 9
Apr. 5	<b>11. Evidence for Christianity: Biblical Morality and Salvation.</b> <i>Moral evidences, character of God, moral government, law, human sin, fallen world, problem of evil, suffering, death, redemption, salvation, heaven and hell</i>	Morris, 2, 10, 11 Ham, 26
Apr. 12	<b>12. Evidence for Christianity: Testimony of Christian Experience:</b> <i>Case for conversion, martyrs, Christian experience, psychology of religion, history of Christianity, religion, missions, culture, society, politics</i>	Finish reading
Apr. 19	<b>FINAL EXAM / PAPERS DUE</b>	