

Christian Evidences

PHIL-240

CG Section 8WK 11/08/2019 to 04/16/2020 Modified 06/30/2022

Course Description

A survey of the evidences for the central truths of Christianity; the existence of God, the deity and resurrection of Christ and the authority and truth of the Bible.

Requisites

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog \(https://catalog.liberty.edu/\)](https://catalog.liberty.edu/).

Rationale

The Christian worldview has been under intellectual attack since its beginning. However, in recent years the attacks have been more subtle and dangerous, coming particularly from such areas as scientific naturalism and post-modernist thinking. This course is designed to offer a defense for the truth claims of Christianity against such attacks by advancing evidence both against its attackers and in favor of the Christian worldview.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Contrast and compare a variety of apologetic methods and approaches.
- B. Understand and use a number of different arguments for the existence of God.
- C. Recite a narrative of the historical Jesus movement.
- D. Explain the diversity of contemporary critical views of Jesus.
- E. Demonstrate the historical reliability of the New Testament.
- F. Examine and critically assess the claims and evidences for the deity of Christ, including His resurrection.

Foundational Skill Learning Outcomes (FSLOs): Critical Thinking (CT):

1. Determine the validity and logical consistency of claims and/or positions, using reading comprehension strategies when relevant.
2. Structure an argument or position using credible evidence and valid reasoning.
3. Compare and contrast the biblical worldview with a non-biblical worldview, evaluating the influence of assumptions and contexts on ethics and values.
4. Plan evidence-based courses of action to resolve problems.
5. Relate critical thinking and ethics to participation in God's redemptive work.

Course Resources

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: [Liberty University Online Bookstore \(https://bncvirtual.com/liberty/\)](https://bncvirtual.com/liberty/).

Additional Materials for Learning

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Canvas [recommended browsers \(https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66)
- D. Microsoft Word

☰ Course Assignments

Textbook readings and presentations

Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations \(https://www.liberty.edu/institutional-effectiveness/student-expectations/\)](https://www.liberty.edu/institutional-effectiveness/student-expectations/), the student will complete the related checklist found in the Course Overview.

Discussions (3)

The student will participate in 3 Discussions in this course. Each thread must be 250–300 words. The student must then reply to 4 other classmates’ replies consisting of 100–150 words each (CLO: A, B; FSLO: CT 1, 2, 3, and 5).

Christian Evidences Assignment

The student will complete 2 essay sets, each set consisting of 3 distinct essay prompts designed to stimulate the student’s thinking and assess the knowledge gleaned from the textbook readings. Each essay response must be 2–3 pages, totaling 6–9 pages per essay set (CLO: C, D, E, F; FSLO: CT 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Quizzes (8)

The student will take quizzes consisting of 25 true/false and multiple-choice questions from the textbook readings and presentations. Quizzes are 30 minutes and open-book/open-notes (CLO: A, B, C, D, E, and F; FSLO: CT 1 and 3).

✓ Course Grading

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Assignments (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Christian Evidences Assignments (2 at 250 pts ea)	500
Quizzes (8 at 25 pts ea)	200
Total	1010

* Course Policies

Writing Proficiency

Writing proficiency will be evaluated in this course. Assignments such as papers, projects, book reviews, essays, etc., will be assessed for grammatical/syntactical precision, clarity, and flow. If an assignment demonstrates significant writing shortcomings at any point during the course, you may be asked by your instructor to submit applicable written assignments to the Online Writing Center for assistance. If so asked, you will be expected to submit the tutor-reviewed draft as evidence of this assistance.

🏛️ Policies

Late Assignment Policy

Course Assignments, including discussions, exams, and other graded assignments, should be submitted on time.

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week after the due date will receive up to a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week and less than 2 weeks late will receive up to a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.
4. Group projects, including group discussion threads and/or replies, and assignments will not be accepted after the due date outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.

Disability Assistance

Students with a disability and those with medical conditions associated with pregnancy may contact Liberty University's Online Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu for accommodations. Such accommodations require appropriate documentation of your condition. For more information about ODAS and the accommodations process, including how to request an accommodation, please visit <https://www.liberty.edu/online/online-disability-accommodation-support/> (<https://www.liberty.edu/online/online-disability-accommodation-support/>). Requests for accommodations not related to disabilities or pregnancy must be directed to the Registrar's Office, which generally handles medical needs support.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](https://www.liberty.edu/media/1226/Liberty_University_Discrimination_Harassment_and_Sexual_Misconduct_Policy.pdf) (https://www.liberty.edu/media/1226/Liberty_University_Discrimination_Harassment_and_Sexual_Misconduct_Policy.pdf) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](http://www.liberty.edu/media/8021/Disability_Grievance_Procedures.pdf) (http://www.liberty.edu/media/8021/Disability_Grievance_Procedures.pdf).

Course Attendance

In an effort to comply with U.S. Department of Education policies, attendance is measured by physical class attendance or any submission of a required assignment within the enrollment dates of the course (such as examinations, written papers or projects, any discussion posts, etc.) or initiating any communication with one's professor regarding an academic subject. More information regarding the [attendance policy](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FOnline%2BAttendance%2BAND%2BNon-Attendance&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613719138&sdata=%2BNBTsPOoXuHAPLfiSQRugK7cRSuV6UyC7qD3agf3l2k%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FOnline%2BAttendance%2BAND%2BNon-Attendance&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613719138&sdata=%2BNBTsPOoXuHAPLfiSQRugK7cRSuV6UyC7qD3agf3l2k%3D&reserved=0>) can be found in the [Academic Course Catalogs](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.liberty.edu%2Findex.cfm%3FPID%3D791&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=DjjhMiRBFnF%2B2ZJUC8eBd1OdNb26S9ADukODYsilXIA%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.liberty.edu%2Findex.cfm%3FPID%3D791&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=DjjhMiRBFnF%2B2ZJUC8eBd1OdNb26S9ADukODYsilXIA%3D&reserved=0>). Regular attendance in online courses is expected throughout the length of the term. Students who do not attend within the first week of a sub-term by submitting a required academic assignment (such as the Course Requirements Checklist, an examination, written paper or project, discussion post, or other academic activity) will be dropped from the course. Students who wish to re-engage in the course are encouraged to contact Academic Advising to discuss their enrollment options. Students who begin an online course, but at some point in the semester cease attending, and do not provide official notification to withdraw, will be assigned a grade of "FN" ([Failure for Non-Attendance](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FUnofficial%2BWithdrawals&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=MoMvZdPfa69InuVHMHAVgu59ZP0Fw45xJTU9PIBrJ%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FUnofficial%2BWithdrawals&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=MoMvZdPfa69InuVHMHAVgu59ZP0Fw45xJTU9PIBrJ%3D&reserved=0>)). Students wishing to withdraw from courses after the official start date should familiarize themselves with the [withdrawal policy](#).

Grading Scale

A	B	C	D	F
900-1010	800-899	700-799	600-699	0-599

For courses with a Pass/NP final grade, please refer to the Course Grading section of this syllabus for the assignment requirements and/or point value required to earn a Passing final grade.

Add/Drop Policy

The full policy statement and procedures are published in the [Policy Directory \(https://wiki.os.liberty.edu/display/IE/Dropping+and+Adding+Online+Classes\)](https://wiki.os.liberty.edu/display/IE/Dropping+and+Adding+Online+Classes).

Honor Code

Liberty University comprises a network of students, Alumni, faculty, staff and supporters that together form a Christian community based upon the truth of the Bible. This truth defines our foundational principles, from our Doctrinal Statement to the Code of Honor. These principles irrevocably align Liberty University's operational procedures with the long tradition of university culture, which remains distinctively Christian, designed to preserve and advance truth. Our desire is to create a safe, comfortable environment within our community of learning, and we extend our academic and spiritual resources to all of our students with the goal of fostering academic maturity, spiritual growth and character development.

Communities are predicated on shared values and goals. The Code of Honor, an expression of the values from which our Doctrinal Statement was born, defines the fundamental principles by which our community exists. At the core of this code lie two essential concepts: a belief in the significance of all individuals, and a reliance on the existence of objective truth.

While we acknowledge that some may disagree with various elements of the Code of Honor, we maintain the expectation that our students will commit to respect and uphold the Code while enrolled at Liberty University.

Adherence to the principles and concepts established within facilitates the success of our students and strengthens the Liberty community.

The Code of Honor can be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=19155> (<http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=19155>).

Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Course Overview	Student Acknowledgements	Course Requirements Checklist
Module 1: Week 1	Learn	Read: 3 items Watch: 1 item
	Apply	Quiz: Philosophical Evidences of the Christian Faith
Module 2: Week 2	Learn	Read: 5 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Discussion: Philosophy and Evidence Quiz: The Existence of God
Module 3: Week 3	Learn	Read: 6 items Watch: 2 items

When	Topic	Notes
	Apply	Discussion: Jesus in Popular Culture Quiz: Authenticity of the Gospel and Canon
Module 4: Week 4	Learn	Read: 5 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Christian Evidences: Jesus and the Bible Assignment Quiz: Reliability of the New Testament
Module 5: Week 5	Learn	Read: 5 items Watch: 1 item
	Apply	Quiz: Jesus and His Divine Identity
Module 6: Week 6	Learn	Read: 4 items Watch: 1 item
	Apply	Discussion: Exclusivity of Christ and the Gospel Quiz: Exclusivity of Christ and Objections of Skeptics
Module 7: Week 7	Learn	Read: 5 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Quiz: Evidences of the Resurrection
Module 8: Week 8	Learn	Read: 6 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Christian Evidences: Jesus and the Resurrection Assignment Quiz: Objections to the Resurrection