

# Inland Empire Bible Institute

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Prefix and Number:** Th102

**Course Title:** Apologetics 1

**Course Schedule:**  
Workshop 1 - January 20, 2008  
Workshop 2 - January 27, 2008  
Workshop 3 - February 3, 2008  
Workshop 4 - February 10, 2008  
Workshop 5 - February 17, 2008

**Course Location, Day and Time**  
Colton Christian Church  
905 E. Olive Street  
Colton, CA 92324

**Required Course Materials**  
Monograph: Williams, James F. Apologetics and Evangelism Richardson, TX Probe Ministries 2003

Monograph: Rhodes, Ron Manuscript Support for the Bible's Reliability, Reasoning From the Scriptures Int'l 2005

Streaming Web Video: Dawkins, Richard The Root of All Evil: Faith and the God Delusion Available at: (<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4321574955310561251&q=The+Root+of+All+Evil&hl=en>)

**Faculty Member's Name:** William Stapleton

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**Assignment Submission:**

**Welcome to Apologetics 1!** Today more than ever, believers need a clear understanding of the truth and a strong commitment to defend it.. The world we knew, in which faith was given the benefit of the doubt, is gone, and the new world rejects even the notion that real truth exists. Most distrusted are those who claim to know the truth. Like the first Christians, we are now called upon to be more rational, more intelligent, more circumspect, and also more loving and humble than all those around us who have no hope. We are called to be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us and to do that with gentleness and reverence. (1 Peter 3:15) These seminars are aimed at discipling Christian believers who carry within themselves substantial quantities of truth for consumption by their world. Cogito Ergo Credo: I Think, Therefore I Believe!

### **Faculty Bio:**

William Stapleton earned an undergraduate degree at Hope International University and a Master of Arts in Theology and Ethics from Azusa Pacific University. Nearly 20 years as a missionary overseas, in Australia and New Zealand and then later, in Japan, form the backbone of his experience. He lectures widely throughout Asia and Africa on subjects touching on Philosophy, Theology, Early Church History, Language and Culture Acquisition for Missionaries, Organizational Leadership and World Religions. He also currently teaches at several Colleges and Universities and serves as field advisor for New Mission Systems International, Inc. with offices in Fort Myers, Florida, and continues work toward a PhD in philosophical theology. When not traveling, he resides with his family in Cherry Valley, California.

### **Availability:**

I am available via email almost all the time and will answer any questions you may have via this modality within 48 hours. By phone, I may be reached at the number above, and will attempt to return any messages within 48 hours from the time I receive them.

### **Course Description:**

This five-week course in Christian Apologetics covers the methods and development of a defense of the Christian faith. In addition to a survey of some of the primary thinkers and practitioners of Biblical Apologetics the student will experiment in role-play and discussion with development of his or her own style of apologetics.

### **Course Topics and Objectives:**

#### ***Session 1: Apologetics: Purpose and Process***

- Identify a definition and overview of basic issues in Apologetics.
- Pre-modern world; Modern world; Post-modern world.
- Why Apologetics is important in the Post-modern context.

#### ***Session 2: Varieties of Apologetics Styles***

- Outline of types according to Bernard Ramm's Taxonomy.
  - Subjective Immediacy; Natural Theology; Revelation
- Evidences; Reason; Verification

***Session 3: Presuppositional Apologetics***

- God as the Great Presupposition
- Scripture as the Great Starting Point

***Session 4: Developing a Christian Worldview in Post-Modern times***

- What is a worldview?
- What must change for a post-modern to think biblically?
- New thinking for new times

***Session 5: Understanding Man as the Imago-Deo***

- Creation of man AS God's image.
- Understanding our place in creation.
- Living out of our promise, rather than out of our curse.

**Assignments and Assessments**

**For Session 2:** Read Rhodes, Manuscript Support for the Bible's Reliability and write a short (1-2 pages) reaction paper outlining the key points. Conclude the reaction paper with your own plans to use this information.

**For Session 3:** Watch Dawkins, [The Root of All Evil](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4321574955310561251) on Google Video

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4321574955310561251&q=The+Root+of+All+Evil&hl=en>

and write a brief (1 page) reaction paper. Be prepared to discuss the movie with other students in class. What is your main reaction to Mr. Dawkins' movie? What answers can you think of to the questions he raises, and how will you use this material?

**For Session 4:** Read Williams, Apologetics and Evangelism and write a short (1-2 pages) reaction paper outlining the key points. Conclude the reaction paper with your own plans to use this information

**Session 5:** An examination will be given covering the major objectives of the course. All questions will be objective (true-false; matching; multiple-choice) and the exam will consist of not more than 20 questions.