



Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
 “Shaping Servant Leaders”

<p>PHI 631/THE 628 Apologetics 3 Credit Hours Summer 2018, May 14-18 Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm AGTS Room 226</p>	<p>James H. Railey, D.Th. (417) 773-7521 raileyj@evangel.edu Available by appointment</p>
<p><u>REQUIRED TEXT:</u> For information on textbook pricing, go to http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home.</p> <p>Copan, Paul. <i>Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament</i> God. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011. ISBN 9780801072758.</p> <p>Craig, William Lane. <i>On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision</i>. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010. ISBN 9781434764881.</p> <p>Groothuis, Douglas R. <i>Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith</i>. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011. ISBN 9780830839353.</p> <p>Sire, James W. <i>Apologetics beyond Reason: Why Seeing Really Is Believing</i>. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academics, 2014. ISBN 9780830840557.</p> <p>Wright, N. T. <i>Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense</i>. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2010. ISBN 9780061920622.</p>	

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION:

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION:

Shaping servant leaders with the knowledge, skills, and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to equip the student to defend the Christian faith against important contemporary assaults and to build a positive Christian world and life

view. Appeal is made not only to the varieties of rational arguments but also the special contribution of the Pentecostal message.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites for this course. Prior exposure to systematic theology, Church history, and philosophy will be helpful.

COURSE PURPOSE:

The Course Description adequately sets out the purpose for the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Although this course is conducted as a seated course, COURSE COMMONS will be utilized for submitting assignments.

- All assignments are due on the date and time specified on the Course Outline and the assignment drop boxes in COURSE COMMONS.
- All students are expected to communicate with the instructor any concerns, technical difficulties, and/or questions they may have via email, phone call, or face-to-face appointment.
- Students are expected to have access to:
 - A computer
 - The Internet
 - Evangel Email
- All assignments need to be submitted Microsoft Word format.
 - File extension: .docx or .doc format
 - Campus computer labs have Microsoft Office 2013 or Office 2016 installed.
 - The latest version of Office is available for your personal machine. It can be downloaded by following the instructions at: <https://help.evangel.edu/hc/en-us/articles/201759875-How-Do-I-Get-Microsoft-Office-for-free->
- Unless otherwise directed by your instructor, all assignments will be submitted to drop boxes on COURSE COMMONS.

ATTENDANCE:

Since this course is a one-week module, attendance at every session is vital, and absences should be for extreme circumstances only. Should the student miss more than 20% of the course, he/she will be withdrawn from the course.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

CLO (Course Learning Outcomes)

PLO (Program Learning Outcomes)

EU20 Outcomes (Evangel University Student Learning Outcomes)

FEW Outcomes (Faith, Work & Economics Integration Outcomes)

CLO: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:	PLO	EU20	FWE
Articulate an understanding of the biblical material that relates to apologetics.	MATS 1, 2, 3 MDIV 1, 2 MLM 4	C3	
Analyze the various approaches to apologetics and their theological and philosophical bases.	MATS 7 MDIV 6	E2, 3, 4	
Apply the relationship between faith and reason by formulating an approach to this relationship that will serve in Kingdom ministry.	MATS 8 MDIV 9 MLM 3	I1	2
Explain the role(s) that key figures in the field of apologetics, both from the history of the Church and the present, play in formulating a contemporary apologetic.	MATS 5, 6 MDIV 3, 4	E 3	
Create a defense for some of the major theological positions of Christianity and some of the major difficulties to the faith raised by those who object to Christianity.	MATS 2, 3, 8 MDIV 2	G4	
Create an apologetic for the crucial nature of the claim to exclusivity made by Christendom and some of the ways in which that claim can be defended	MATS 4, 8 MDIV 2, 5, 9 MLM 3	G4	5

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Prior to the first class session, the student should read Wright, *Simply Christian*. A critique of the text is due at class time, May 14. This critique, and the others listed below, should:
 - a. Be 4-5 pages, double-spaced, in proper academic style/form.
 - b. Affirm that the student has read the text.
 - c. Provide a summary of the methodology and key ideas of the author.
 - d. Explain points of affirmation and dissent from the author's positions (identify arguments that are strong/weak).
 - e. Explain points/positions that are valid for ministry.
2. During the week of seated classes, each student will present a 10-15 minute talk on a particular objection to the Christian faith and their thoughtful response. These presentations will be made on Friday of the week, but the professor needs to know the student's topic on Monday. There is flexibility in the topics, but it must be a current issue from one of the following categories:
 - a. Faith and science
 - b. The problem of evil
 - c. Pluralism and comparative religions
 - d. Christianity and history (the resurrection, validity of the Bible, etc.)
 - e. Other topics as approved by the professor.

3. The student should sustain a “take-home” final exam, which will be distributed to the students the last day of class, May 18. A guide for preparing for the exam will be provided. The exam is due to the professor May 25.
4. The student shall submit 4-5 page critiques on the other texts for the course, following the expectations listed in item 1 above. They are due:
 - a. Craig, *On Guard* – June 8.
 - b. Groothuis, *Apologetics* – June 22.
 - c. Copan, *Is God a Moral Monster* – July 6.
 - d. Sire, *Apologetics Beyond Reason* – July 20.
5. The student shall submit a 15-20 page well researched and written paper on the theme, “Intellectual, Relational, and Spiritual Evidences for the Christian Faith.” The paper should conform to the Turabian style manual (current edition), making use of footnotes for source documentation. The paper will be graded on creativity, content, cogency, and form. The paper is due August 3.
6. All written assignments may be submitted via Course Commons. The professor will also accept them as attachments to an email (raileyj@evangel.edu). If they are submitted as email attachments, the file name should include the student’s last name and the name of the assignment (Wright, Craig, Final Exam, Paper, etc.).

ASSESSMENT:

All assignments will be assessed using the grading and weighting scales noted below

GRADING SCALE:

A	94 to 100%	C	74 to < 77%
A-	90 to < 94%	C-	70 to < 74%
B+	87 to < 89%	D+	67 to < 70%
B	84 to < 87%	D	64 to < 67%
B-	80 to < 84%	D-	61 to < 64%
C+	77 to < 80%	F	0 to < 61%

GRADING POLICY:

Assignment	Percentage
Book Critiques	30
Paper	30
Class presentation	10
Take-home exam	30
Total	100

Students should retain a copy of all work submitted, until they have received a grade for this work.

Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified in this syllabus. A grade of IP (In Process) will be issued if the course ends after the AGTS semester ends. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://agts.edu/current-students/administrative-forms/>.

The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days and may include a grade reduction. Students may not register for courses in a new term if carrying more than two IP or I grades.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

As people of Christ, members of the broader academic community, and future professionals, it is incumbent upon every member of the AGTS-Evangel community to employ and encourage integrity in all our academic and professional pursuits. Any and every instance of academic dishonesty compromises the mission of AGTS-Evangel University and violates the standards we hold as people of Christ and practitioners within our professional fields. Students are expected to understand and avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, which includes falsification, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

As members of the AGTS-Evangel community, students share the responsibility to deter and report academic dishonesty. Should a student become aware of a violation of academic integrity, he or she is encouraged to report the incident to a faculty member or department chairperson.

It is the responsibility of the faculty to address any and all acts of academic dishonesty. Sanctions for violations of academic dishonesty can include but are not limited to a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension from school, or expulsion from the university. AGTS-Evangel's policy on academic integrity, as published in the Student Handbook, appears in Section VIII. University Policies: Academic Integrity.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM:

It is expected that electronic devices will be used during class to support the students' learning. Any use of technology that substantially degrades the learning environment, promotes dishonesty or illegal activities is prohibited.

Cell phones should only be used for academic purposes during class. It is not permissible to answer cell phones or engage in text messaging while class is in session. Should an emergency situation arise that requires you to use your cell phone, please make the professor aware of the circumstances.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

AGTS-Evangel University is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). Academic Support, a division of the Center for Student Success, is the office designated by Evangel University to review disability documentation, determine reasonable accommodations, and develop plans for the provision of such accommodations.

If you have already established accommodations through Academic Support and receive accommodation memos, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible (accommodations are not retroactive). If you have not yet established accommodations, but have a disability or health condition (permanent or temporary) that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact Academic Support staff in the Center for Student Success (ZM-208; 417-865-2815 x.8215) so that accommodations can be arranged. See the Disability and Academic Accommodations Handbook for further information on the accommodations process.

COURSE OUTLINE:

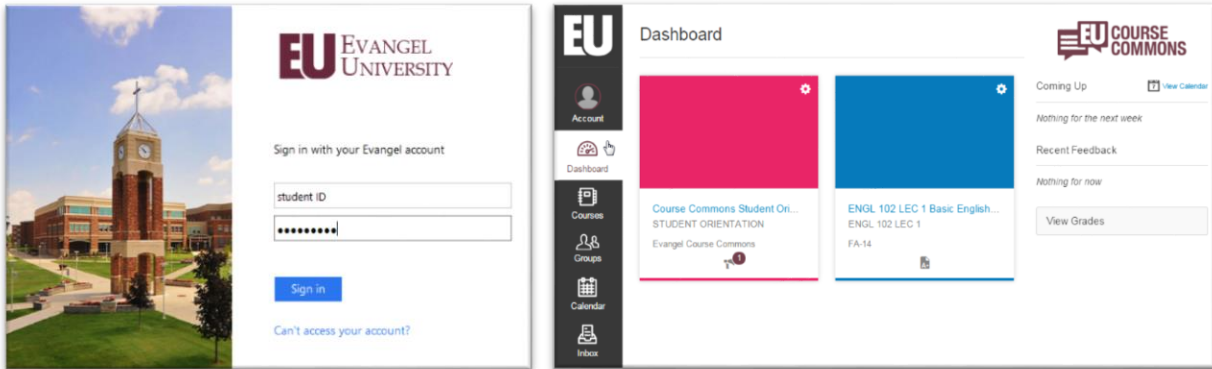
This is a tentative course outline. Course outline may be changed at the discretion of the course instructor. Notice of changes will be made in class and/or through COURSE COMMONS announcements.

Class Date	Class Topics/Activities	Assignments	Due Dates
		Wright, <i>Simply Christian</i> critique	May 14
May 14	Lecture—Introduction to Apologetics		
May 15	Lecture—World Views		
May 16	Lecture—Approaches to Apologetics		
May 17	Lecture—Specific Concerns for Apologetics		
May 18	Lecture—Specific Concerns for Apologetics		

		Student Presentations	May 18
		Take-Home Exam	May 25
		Craig, <i>On Guard</i> critique	June 8
		Groothuis, <i>Apologetics</i>	June 22
		Copan, <i>Is God a Moral Monster?</i>	July 6
		Sire, <i>Apologetics Beyond Reason</i>	July 20
		Term Paper	August 3

Course Commons

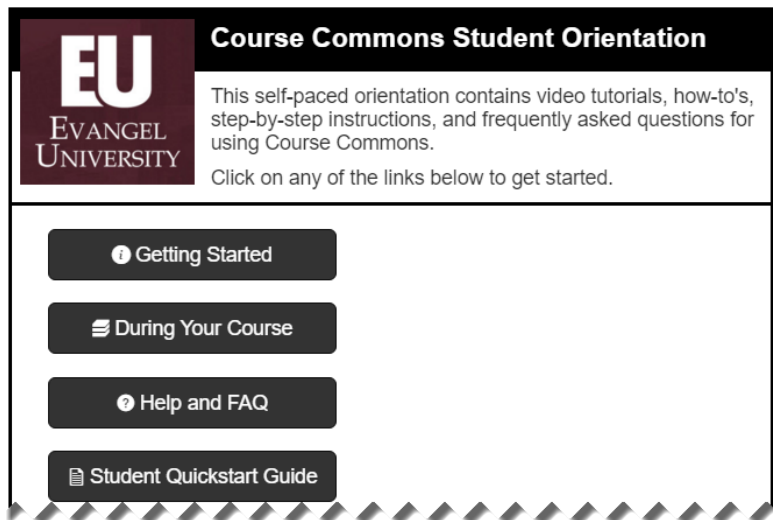
This course will use Course Commons, Evangel's learning management system. There are links to Course Commons in the Student Portal and the Evangel website. The login page for Course Commons is <https://courses.evangel.edu>.



Use your Evangel username and password to login.

Course Commons Student Orientation

All Evangel students have access to the [Course Commons Student Orientation](#). If you are new to Course Commons, you are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. As part of your course preparation, this will help you make the most of the features that are available to you as a student.



Accessing the Course in Course Commons

Access your courses list by clicking on the Courses icon on the Global Navigation menu on the left of the screen. You can also click on the course card on the Dashboard.

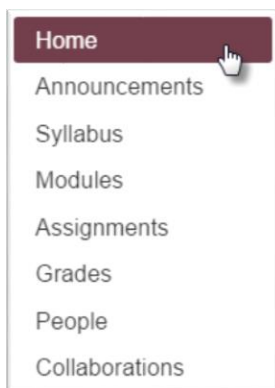
To customize your Courses list, see the following Help Guide: [How do I customize my Courses list?](#)

Students will have access to this course in Course Commons seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked.

After the end of the semester, students will have read-only access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work, course resources and grades will be available.

Accessing Course Content in Course Commons

The professor controls the availability of course content and features. Some items may be unavailable until a date set by the professor.

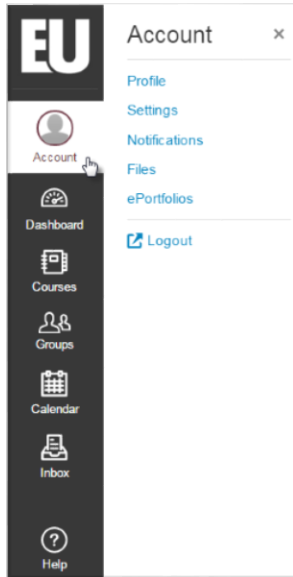


You can navigate the course content and features using the Course Navigation menu on the left. This menu can be customized by the professor, so it may differ from course to course, depending on what features the professor has chosen to make available.

You can collapse the Course Navigation menu to focus on the page content. Click on the menu icon in the upper left (which looks like 3 lines). You can expand the menu by clicking on the menu icon again.

All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, online quizzes, online discussions, grades, etc.) can be accessed using the links in the Course Navigation menu.

Personal Settings in Course Commons



Students can adjust their personal settings in Course Commons. Click on the Account icon to access the Account menu.

On the **Profile** page, you can add a profile picture to your account. You can also edit your display name, which will show to your instructor and peers throughout Course Commons.

The **Settings** link allows you to add additional contact methods (personal email or cell phone number for text message alerts) to your account. You can also add external services, like Twitter, Skype or Google Drive.

The **Notifications** link allows you to customize *what* notifications you receive from Course Commons and *how* and *when* you receive them. This is a student-centered feature that allows you to optimize your notifications to help you stay connected to what is happening in all your courses.

For more information, see the following pages in the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Update your Profile and Settings](#) and [How to Update Your Notifications Preferences](#).

Accessing Grades in Course Commons

All course grades will be recorded and shown through Course Commons. Simply click the “Grades” button on the lower right of the Dashboard to access your grades for all courses. You can also use the Grades link in the Course Navigation to access your grades for this course.

For more information on how to check your grades and what you can do from the Grades page, see the following page from the Course Commons Student Orientation: [How to Check My Grades](#).

How to Get Help with Course Commons

Help is never more than a few clicks away! You can access the Support menu from any page in Course Commons.

Click on the Support icon in the lower left corner of the screen. Because the Course Commons is powered by the Canvas Learning Management System, all help guides and helpdesk tickets will reference Canvas.

From the Support menu, you can send a message to your instructor, search the Canvas Help Guides, or report a problem.

Support ×

[Course Commons Student Orientation](#)
This course provides on-demand video tutorials for using Course Commons.

[The Center for Student Success](#)
Your success is our goal! This course contains resources for career planning, student employment, tutoring and academic support.

[The Write Place](#)
Find resources and connect with tutors to help you hone your writing skills.

[Ask Your Instructor a Question](#)
Questions are submitted to your instructor

[Search the Canvas Guides](#)
Find answers to common questions

[Report a Problem](#)
If Canvas misbehaves, tell us about it

You can browse the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for help on a specific topic.

Course Commons Troubleshooting

Do you have a question about a quiz, an assignment, or another item in the course? Contact your professor.

Are you having technical problems with Course Commons? Click the Help icon, click "Report a Problem" and complete the form to file a ticket for a personal response from the support team. Please be sure to include a thorough description of the problem.

Are you having trouble with your Evangel account (username and password)? Contact the IT Helpdesk at 417-865-2815 ext. 8368 (phone), helpdesk@evangel.edu (email), or help.evangel.edu.

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SPECIFIC DATA:

Prepared by James H. Railey, March 2018.