



## St. Paul Theological Seminary

The Canadian Coptic Centre  
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE  
Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

Instructor	George Bassilios
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Course Description	Apologetics – Defending the truth claims of Christianity
Course Objective	To equip the students so that they are “always ready to give a defense to everyone who asks them a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear”.

### Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the need to defend the Christian faith in today’s age. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- Learn about the current challenges that face the Christian believer. (1 Chronicles 12:32)
- Give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you (1Peter 3:15)
- Know how you ought to answer each one (Colossians 4:6)
- Reason with others on matters pertaining to the Christian faith (Acts 18:4)

### Course Lectures:

1. Introduction to Apologetics
2. The Existence of God – A Refutation of Atheism
3. Truth (Ontology & Epistemology)
4. Worldviews (Secular Humanism, Eastern Mysticism, Postmodernism)
5. Christianity and Science (Faith & Reason)
6. The Evolution Theory – Creationism and Intelligent Design
7. Theodicies to the Problem of Evil
8. The Reliability of the Scriptures
9. The Case for the Resurrection of Christ
10. The Distinctiveness of Christianity

### Learning Methods

- The primary course content will be delivered via lectures, including the full outline to assist in note taking.
- Lectures will include video clips and other visual aid as a tool to augment the learning process.
- During the course of the subject, the instructor will facilitate an in-class interaction and dialogue. Students are expected to engage in role-playing as a method to ameliorate the learning process.

## Lectures Outline:

<b>Lesson 1 – Introduction to Apologetics</b>	<b>Lesson 2 – The Existence of God</b>
- What is Apologetics	- The Cosmological Argument
- The need for Apologetics	- The Teleological Argument
- The art of Apologetics	- The Moral Argument
- Apologetics and Evangelism	- Pascal's Wager

<b>Lesson 3 – Truth (Ontology &amp; Epistemology)</b>	<b>Lesson 4 – Worldviews</b>
- What is Truth?	- Postmodernism
- Our culture and Truth	- Secular Humanism
- Significance of Truth	- The New Age Movement
- Why do we suppress the Truth?	- Our responsibility

<b>Lesson 5 – Christianity And Science</b>	<b>Lesson 6 – The Evolution Theory</b>
- Limits of Science	- Impact of society
- Purpose of Science	- Historical background
- Science as foundation for Christianity	- Micro-evolution vs. Macro-evolution
- Faith And Reason	- Challenges to the Evolution Theory

<b>Lesson 7 – The Problem of Evil</b>	<b>Lesson 8 – The Reliability of the Scriptures</b>
- Types of Evil (Moral & Natural)	- Internal Evidence
- Aspects of Evil (Logical & Emotional)	- External Evidence
- Purpose of Evil	- Divine Inspiration
- Christian response	- The logical conclusion

<b>Lesson 9 – The Case for the Resurrection of Christ</b>	<b>Lesson 10 – The Uniqueness of Christianity</b>
- The importance of the Resurrection	- Uniqueness of Christianity
- Alternative Theories	- Uniqueness of Christ
- Refutations of alternative theories	- Liar, Lunatic, Lord
- The verdict	- The man in the pit allegory