



PE220 Apologetics

Australian College of Theology name: *Christian Apologetics*

Learning Outcomes

1. To assist you to begin the task of thinking through some of the issues raised by critics of Christian belief;
2. To introduce you to the knowledge and skills to develop intelligent defences of the truth claims of the Christian faith;
3. To help you form a coherent Christian world view in response to currents in Western thought.

Content

A study of issues raised for Christian faith by the wider sphere of secular knowledge, especially those aspects which seek to discredit religious belief.

Section A The Christian Faith and its Bearing Upon

1. History: divine control of history, teleology, human nature and destiny, uniqueness of the Christian revelation
2. Nature: creation, providence, the concept of the ordered universe, human attitudes to nature
3. Society: the Biblical structure of human relationships, family, sex, marriage, human life, mutual service; the principle of an eternal relationship with God as the goal of human life; the concept of accountability to God as the basis of human society

Section B Attacks on the Christian Faith

1. Behavioural: Freudianism, Anthropological, Psychological, Sociological
2. Philosophical: in relation to creation, miracles, scientific method, suffering
3. Historical: the Enlightenment: the examination of attacks upon the historicity of Christ, the Resurrection, and the emergence of the church

Section C Alternatives to the Christian Faith

1. Non-supernatural alternatives: Agnostic Humanism, Atheistic Existentialism, Marxism, Moralism, Scientism
2. Supernatural alternatives: Occultism, Religious Relativism, Syncretism, Religious pluralism, New Age movements