

Christian Apologetics
TEDS Course PR-6000

**Responding to Modernism: the Death of God, the Death of the Soul, the Death of
Real Ethical Values, and the Dismissal of Divine Intervention in the World**

Tuesdays, 5:30–9:00pm
September 8–December 8, 2009

Syllabus

Dr. Howard Ducharme

Grade Determination

Required Reading:	20%
Two 5-6 page papers/take home exams:	70%
15-minute Classroom Apologetic presentation:	10%

Textbooks & Reading (All Required Texts are Required Readings)

1. **Required:** Stephen Jay Gould, Rocks of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life (Ballantine Books, 2002), paperback.
2. **Required:** Ian Barbour, When Science Meets Religion (Harper Collins, 2000), paperback.
3. **Required:** John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book I, Chapter 1, 15; Online at:
<http://www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/institutes/>
4. **Required:** Howard Ducharme, “The Image of God and the Moral Identity of Persons,” in Law and Religion, Richard O’Dair and Andrew Lewis, editors, (Oxford University Press, 2001), pp. 1-26 (available online and/or copy to be supplied in the course materials).
5. **Required:** Richard Swinburne, Was Jesus God? (Oxford University Press, 2008), hardback.
6. **Not required; recommended:** Peter Singer, Rethinking Life and Death: The Collapse of Our Traditional Ethics (St. Martin’s Press, 1996), paperback.
7. **Not required; expensive, recommended** reference text: Norman Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (Baker Books, 2000).
8. **Not required, recommended:** James Thrower, Religion: The Classical Theories (Georgetown University Press, 1999), paperback.

Topic I (Weeks 1-5): The “Death of God” and the Modern Conflicts Between Science & Religion

Does Science disprove Religion? Are science and religion enemies and strangers? Will the scientific discovery of “the God particle” disprove God?

Are scientific truths objective and verifiable; are religious truths subjective and non-verifiable? Is Christianity a worldview? What is a worldview? What is truth? Is Science value-free?

- Stephen Jay Gould, Rocks of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life (Ballantine Books, 2002), paperback.
- Ian Barber, When Science Meets Religion: Enemies, Strangers, or Partners? (HarperOne, 2000), paperback.
- John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book I, Chapter 1, 15; Online at: <http://www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/institutes/>
- (Recommended) James Thrower, Religion: The Classical Theories (1999). Handouts given in class.

Paper I (5-6 pages, typed on selected questions)

Classroom presentations will be selected and scheduled throughout the semester

Topic II (Weeks 6-9): The Modern Death of the Soul and Objective Ethical Values

After Darwin -- what is a moral agent? Does neuroscience disprove the soul and objective ethical values? What does the soul do? Is there knowledge of the soul or just faith and hope there is a soul? Uncovering and responding to the new challenges of Physicalism, Human Genetics, and Neuroethics to the existence and reality soul as a self-conscious moral agent.

- (Recommended) Peter Singer, Rethinking Life and Death: The Collapse of Our Traditional Ethics (St. Martin's Press, 1996), paperback. Outline & PowerPoint handouts.
- Howard Ducharme, "The Image of God and the Moral Identity of Persons," in Law and Religion, Richard O'Dair and Andrew Lewis, editors, (Oxford University Press, 2001), pp. 1-26 (available online and/or copy to be supplied in the course materials).
- Saint Augustine, On Christian Teaching (Oxford University Press, 2008), paperback and/or online reading given in class.

Question III (Weeks 10-14): The Modern Dismissal of the Essentials of Christianity

Was Jesus God? Modern challenges to God as a Person, a God of love, the Trinity, "God in human form," the possibility of miracles, and the historicity of the resurrection.

- Richard Swinburne, Was Jesus God? (Oxford University Press, 2008), hardback

Paper II (5-6 pages, typed on selected questions)