



St. Mary's College
Department of Theology

Course Title: Apologetics I – De Revelatione
Course Number: THE 201
Term: Fall 2023.
Lecture – Tues/Thurs 8:25-9:45 am.

Professor: Fr. Paul-Isaac Franks
Email: pfranks@smac.edu
Phone: 785-437-2471, extension 159

Required Materials

The True Religion: Dogmatic Theology (Volume 1) by Msgr G Van Noort
Course Pack (provided)

Suggested Materials

Sacrae Theologiae Summa, v. IA by Michaele Nicholau
The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ by Brant Pitre
Can We Trust the Gospels? by Peter J. Williams
Is the New Testament Reliable? by Paul Barnett

Course Description

Theology 1201 is a Theology course ordered to the defending the credibility of the Catholic Faith. It will assume the existence of God and the immortal human soul, which are treated elsewhere in the college program, and start by discussing the natural obligation to worship God. From this foundation, the class advances to the demonstration of the possibility of supernatural revelation and the motives of credibility, which are then applied to historical Christian revelation, proving the credibility and obligation to believe the religion founded by Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the analysis of each topic, the course will examine and refute certain related modern errors and false religions.

Objectives

Theology 201 is designed to give the students:

- Logical and persuasive arguments to defend the Catholic Faith against attacks, especially from those posed by Protestantism, Rationalism and the spirit of Modernism within the Church.
- More securely founded convictions and an increased love of the Catholic Faith.
- A secure knowledge of the grounds which make possible a scientific act of Faith.

Students who have completed the course should know:

- The proofs that religion, external and social obliges by natural law
- How to discuss the possibility of revelation, miracles, and prophecies
- How to defend the authorship and Historicity of the gospels
- The principal Old Testament Prophecies referring to Jesus Christ
- The Claims of Christ, as outlined in the Gospels
- How to defend the claim that the miracles and prophecies of Christ, as enumerated in the four canonical gospels were true miracles and prophecies
- A basic sense of the Christian critique of the religious claims of other world religions.

As a college level course, it seeks not only to provide ready answers against typical attacks on the Faith and the Church, but to offer a comprehensive and profound understanding of the underlying principles upon which the rational defense of the Faith is built.

Grading Policy

- Grades will be based on the following rubric:

Homework	30%
Quizzes:	10% (lowest quiz grade dropped)
Tests:	30%
Exam:	30%

- Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. They need not be announced. They will cover only the last three classes' material, and no new quiz will be given until the former quiz has been graded and returned. Any quiz missed without a legitimate excuse may not be made up. Quizzes missed with a legitimate excuse must be made up within one week. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor that a quiz was missed, explain the reason, and schedule a make-up quiz if possible. At the end of the semester, each student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
- There will be either one or two tests in addition to the semester final. The policy for making-up a missed test is the same for missed quizzes except that only for a very serious reason will the instructor permit a make-up test. Normally, a formally-excused absence or a doctor's note will be necessary.

- Written assignments to be completed outside of class as homework will be assigned throughout the semester. This includes at least one major essay during the course of the semester. The purpose of this work is to check the students' deeper understanding of the material, and to monitor their comprehension of their readings.
- If it is obvious to the teacher that a student has used voice-recognition technology rather than writing his / her coursework submission, he reserves the right to give a failing grade, irrespective of the understanding that may be demonstrated.
- SMC plagiarism policies apply, students found to have violated these policies stand to fail the course.
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Class

- If they find special difficulties with the material or any portion of it, they should not hesitate to email or arrange a meeting with the teacher, who – since he wants nothing more than that they truly understand and profit by the class – will strive to help them in assimilating the matter to the extent possible. Ideally this should be done more than a week before the test / final exam / deadline for coursework submission.

Attendance Policy

- Attendance at each lecture is considered mandatory. A student with five or more absences without previously-granted permission will risk a grade-reduction or loss of credit for the course at the discretion of the instructor. A student who has ten unexcused absences stands to fail.