

Name: _____
Course: PHILO 4373, Christian Apologetics
Instructor: William A. Dembski, Fleming 215D

Due: Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 3:30 PM
Grader: Jack Greenoe
Email: JLGreenoe AT elearning.swbts.edu

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM

Answer the following ten questions. Each question is worth 10 points. Your grade on each question will depend on accuracy, thoroughness, cogency, concision, organization, and style. Strive for 100 to 250 words per question. Do not go over 300 words per question or 3,000 words for the entire exam. The exam is open book, but in taking it, you may not consult with other people. Email your exam to Jack Greenoe by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 (late exams will be marked down a point per hour late). Jack's email address is given above (substitute "@" for "AT"). In submitting your exam, you acknowledge, on pain of divine judgment, that it is entirely your own work.

1. Answer Pilate's question "What is truth?" in light of the Old and New Testaments as well as philosophical debates about truth.
2. How would you argue that a male savior can save women with a feminist theologian?
3. Explain how the Vincentian Canon applies today.
4. What is a fallacy of self-referential incoherence? How does postmodernity commit a fallacy of self-referential incoherence? How does reformed apologetics get its start by challenging a fallacy of self-referential incoherence? Where else in this course have we seen such fallacies?
5. Sketch the strongest argument you can for atheism.
6. What is the difference between a negative and a positive apologetic? In approaching an unbeliever, why might a presuppositionalist prefer a negative over a positive apologetic? Assess the relative merits of these two apologetic approaches. Are they mutually exclusive or mutually reinforcing?
7. Define classical and evidential apologetics, compare them, and make a case why one is superior to the other.
8. What, according to C. S. Lewis, is the cardinal difficulty of naturalism? How does naturalism undermine itself?
9. Why does what counts as evidence for one person not always count as evidence for another? Should we believe things in proportion to evidence? Why did the one person C. S. Lewis knew who had seen a ghost continue to disbelieve in them? Why wasn't the evidence, in this case, good enough.
10. Imagine you and Peter Fromm are sitting at Starbucks drinking coffee. He's got his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in hand. His faith has disintegrated. What do you say to him?