

## Catholic Apologetics

Trimester I, 2009-10

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"A course in Catholic Apologetics seeks to give the reasons for what we believe as Catholic Christians. This course examines the foundation for belief, the authoritative sources for belief and the modern problems associated with belief. . . . Students are expected to participate in all seminar sessions, write critical essays and serve as discussion leaders."

Dear Students in Catholic Apologetics:

As noted in the above excerpt from the course description for "Catholic Apologetics", a course in Catholic Apologetics seeks to examine the underpinnings for belief, the sources for particular beliefs and the contemporary challenges connected with belief.

As you are aware (See the course catalog.), our course will meet on MWF only for each of the 12 weeks of the trimester. (A complete syllabus will be distributed on the first day of class.) Also, all participants are expected to complete written and reading assignments as a result of internal motivation. All participants should be prepared to lead the day's discussion.

**Books:** It is up to you to purchase the books for this course. Please see the on-line course catalog for the list of books and resources.

In order to jumpstart our readings and discussions, please prepare the following summer assignments:

- 1) Essay Topic: "What do you consider three modern problems associated with belief?" That is, as a Roman Catholic what do you consider the greatest challenges to believing as the Church teaches us to believe? Most problems of belief are external (that is, the result of external forces), but there can be modern internal problems that challenge belief. What do you identify as three modern problems associated with belief?

Your essay should be single-spaced typed. (Yes, single-spaced.) Follow the guidelines for essays in the *MLA Handbook*. (You can look on-line for the Handbook or go to a library to find the guidelines.)

Thesis Statement: Please make sure that your thesis statement is clear and succinct. If you are unfamiliar with the nature of a thesis statement, please consult and read the *MLA Handbook* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Format: Use block format with double spaces between paragraphs. Single space within paragraphs. For the sake of creative interest, please entitle your essay. Margins should be no more than 1". Use 10 or 12 point Times Roman font.

Date Due: Hand in a hard copy to Mrs. Liscinsky in the front office by August 20. No late assignments are accepted.

Value: 50 points.

- 2) Reading and Written Assignment: Read *Render Unto Caesar: Serving the Nation By Living Our Catholic Beliefs in Political Life* by Charles J. Chaput, Chapters 1 through 4. Come to class on August 28 ready to discuss these chapters based on your written assignment. Complete the following for each chapter according to this format:

**Chapter 1: Starting at the Source**

**A. Key Ideas:** (List in bullet points what you think are the key ideas that Chaput is delineating in each chapter.)

**B. Questions for Discussion:** (In bullet format, give at least three *essential questions* for each chapter. *Essential questions* are those that get at the substantive points within the reading. These are the questions that will lead our discussion. Please remember that you might be chosen to lead the seminar for the day.)

**C. Terms/Historical Facts/Questions:** (List in bullet point form any terms or historical facts that are unfamiliar to you. Make an effort to google or research them before class. Also, list the elemental questions you have about terminology, facts and other details.)

Format: Type your name, date due, title of course, name of instructor in the upper left. Bold the chapter number and titles for sections A, B, C just as I have them formatted above. Order and accuracy are important.

Date Due: Friday, August 28. No late assignments are accepted.

Value: 50 points

**Please Note:** We will be reading and completing assignments for the entirety of Chaput's book within the first full week of school.