

PH.D. IN APOLOGETICS & WORLDVIEW
Field Essay Study Guide
School of Theology

The field essay in apologetics and worldview studies will consist of one or two questions. Students are expected to be familiar with the history of and the various approaches to apologetics methodologies. Students should be able to demonstrate a familiarity with the content of the various apologetics approaches and above all be able to give a coherent presentation of the philosophical and historical arguments for the orthodox Christian faith, as well as be able to present a coherent case showing how the objections to the faith are false and unable to stand under careful scrutiny. They should also be able to demonstrate a firm and competent knowledge of the following volumes:

1. *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity: An Apologetics Handbook* by Kenneth Boa and Roberts Bowman, Jr. (Colorado Springs: Nav Press, 2001) Learn the various apologetics methodological approaches and who holds them, and the content of their apologetic.
2. *Faith and Reason: Searching for a Rational Faith* by Ron Nash (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988). Pay special attention to the material on worldview thinking, Reformed epistemology, arguments for the existence of God, the critique of naturalism, the objections to and the defense of miracles and the problem of evil.
3. *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* by William Lane Craig (Wheaton: Crossway, 1994). Be able to develop the arguments in each chapter.
4. *Signs of Intelligence: Understanding Intelligent Design* ed. by William A. Dembski and James M. Kushiner (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press of Baker Book House, 2001).
5. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog* by James Sire (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 3rd edition: 1997). Know the content of and be able to apply the tests for truth to the various worldviews. See also Ron Nash's *Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in a World of Ideas* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992) for information on testing truth claims.
6. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics* by Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995).
7. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth* by Harold Netland (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991) or *Encountering Religious Pluralism* by Harold Netland (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, this volume is due out August 20, 2001).
8. *Jesus and the Logic of History* by Paul Barnett (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Press, 1997).