

28700 Christian Apologetics

Final Examination

Summer 2020

You may use your class notes and an unmarked Bible to answer the following questions.

There is no time limit; however, once you open the final examination, you must complete the final examination in its entirety without stopping.

Upload the completed examination in Canvas as a PDF; include an affirmation that no resources were used other than your notes from this class and an unmarked Bible.

LONG ESSAY PROMPT

5 points, at least five paragraphs

Which of the following three options is *most* compatible with Scripture? Which of the following three options is *least* compatible with Scripture?

- (1) Classical apologetics,
- (2) Evidential apologetics
- (3) Presuppositional apologetics

Summarize each approach; then, make your argument for the *most* and the *least* compatible with Scripture from the Bible and your course notes.

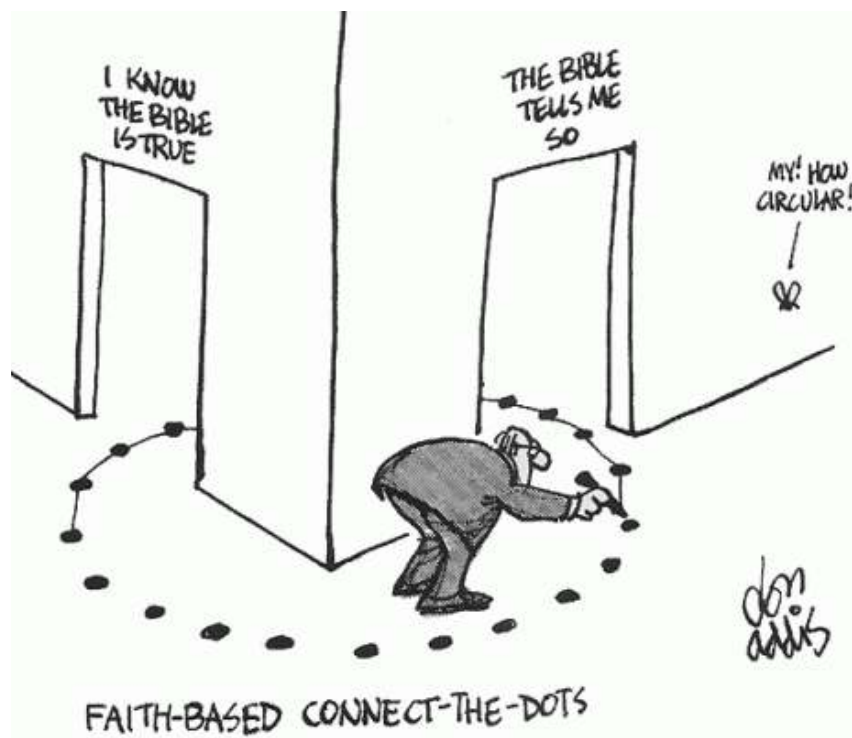
SHORT ESSAY PROMPTS

4 points each, at least two paragraphs but no more than four paragraphs each

PROMPT 1: Suppose that someone says to you, “You only believe that the Bible is true because the Bible claims that it’s true. That’s circular reasoning!”

Develop a gracious and reasonable response to this accusation.

Depending on which apologetics method you find to be most compatible with Scripture, your response might focus on external evidences, on the resurrection of Jesus, on the witness of the Holy Spirit, on the self-authentication of Scripture, or on some combination of these factors. Course lecture notes and *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* will be helpful as you develop your response.



PROMPT 2: In the dialogue below between Fantomex and a Kree warrior, theism is presented by the Kree warrior as mathematically falsifiable (“a mathematical equation that proves the nonexistence of any deities”) and immature (“we learn it when we’re children, about the same time we learn not to soil ourselves”).

Write an argument refuting the claim that theism is disprovable through mathematical means. Then, build on this refutation by providing a relevant classical argument for theism. Use notes from course lectures and notes from *Apologetics at the Cross*, chapters 3 and 12. It may be helpful to consider the ways in which this presentation of theism and atheism exemplifies the “coming-of-age narrative” and “scientism,” as described in *Apologetics at the Cross*.



PROMPT 3: In the graphic below, Viv engages in theistic practices after the death of her brother Vin, even though she does not believe in God. She and her father Vision are apparently unable to live consistently within their naturalistic worldview. As a result, in a time of grief, they draw from the resources of theism. Use their incapacity to live consistently within their own worldview as a starting point to develop a presuppositional argument for Christian theism. Use your notes from the course lectures and from *Apologetics at the Cross* chapters 4 and 5.



PROMPT 4: Develop a reverent, reasonable, and humble response to the meme below. Your response should begin with historical evidences connected to the New Testament Gospels. Your notes from course lectures, from C.S. Lewis’s essay “Fern-Seed and Elephants,” and from the book *Why Should I Trust the Bible?* will be helpful.



PROOF

Trying to prove God with the bible is like trying to prove Superman with a comic book.

PROMPT 5: In this *Peanuts* comic strip, how does Lucy Van Pelt explain the existence of suffering in light of the assumed goodness and omnipotence of God? What causes suffering, according to her way of thinking? Suppose that a member of your church has a similar perspective as Lucy on the reasons for pain and suffering. Drawing from course lecture notes and from your notes on *Apologetics at the Cross* chapter 12 and *Urban Apologetics* chapter 7, develop a response that would help such a person have a more biblical understanding of suffering and evil.

