

Systematic Theology & Apologetics
ST 540 Apologetics of Francis Schaeffer
2 credit hours / 26 classroom hours

Objective: To examine the life and ministry of Francis Schaeffer through a number of his selected works with a particular emphasis on his method of apologetics. The student will gain an appreciation of Schaeffer's "man-on-the-street" approach to cultural engagement as well as his understanding of the flow of ideas through the cultural institutions. We will see how Schaeffer's ministry sought to answer the humanistic spirit of the age with a comprehensive Christian worldview.

Prerequisites: None.

Required reading (Schaeffer):

- *The God Who is There* (195 pp.)
- *He is There and He is Not Silent* (80 pp.)
- *Escape from Reason* (65 pp.)
- *The Church at the End of the 20th Century* (110 pp.)
- *A Christian Manifesto* (85 pp.)

Additional required reading:

- Thomas Morris: *Francis Schaeffer's Apologetics: A Critique* (120 pp.)
- Scott Burson and Jerry Walls: *C. S. Lewis & Francis Schaeffer: Lessons for a New Century from the Most Influential Apologists of Our Time* (selections)

Total required reading is approximately 750 pp. not including the book report.

Book reports will be based on one of the following works by Schaeffer:

- *The New Super-Spirituality* (20 pp.)
- *Two Contents, Two Realities* (20 pp.)
- *Back to Freedom and Dignity* (30 pp.)
- *The Mark of the Christian* (30 pp.)
- *No Final Conflict* (30 pp.)
- *Art and the Bible* (40 pp.)
- *Basic Bible Studies* (55 pp.)
- *The Church Before the Watching World* (65 pp.)
- *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History* (70 pp.)
- *Pollution and the Death of Man* (80 pp.)
- *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (110 pp.)
- *Genesis in Space and Time* (115 pp.)

- *Death in the City* (120 pp.)
- *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?* (130 pp.)
- *True Spirituality* (185 pp.)
- *No Little People* (190 pp.)
- *How Should We Then Live* (200 pp.)

Students will submit their first-second-third choices in the second week of class. Projects will then be assigned by the instructor. Each student will read and review a different book.

Book reports will serve as a mid-term project due around the 6th week of class.

Each book report will be presented as a 50-minute class lecture with discussion and questions.

For titles over 100 pages, book reports will receive extra credit.

Grading policy:

- 13 weekly quizzes (10 multiple choice questions + one essay question) (50%)
- book report (20%)
- comprehensive final exam (20%)
- attendance and class participation (10%)

rev. October 2022 by J.R. Dickens