

# Servants' Preparation Faith Program

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### DGM 102 – APOLOGETICS

FALL 2010 – FRIDAY OCT 1 – OCT 29

6:00 PM – 7:10 PM

INSTRUCTOR: FR. PISHOY WASFY

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#### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the second module required to complete the Dogmatic Theology portion of Faith Program. This 5-week course will provide you with an introduction to Apologetics. The course will also provide you with content that should help you defend your faith contra- atheism, relativism, postmodernism and other worldviews. You will also learn how to respond to questions pertaining to (1) The Presence of Evil, (2) Does God Exist, and (3) The Truth behind the Da Vinci Code. It is the intent of this course that you –as a student- receive a brief overview and background information on the field of apologetics in addition to a solid understanding of Christianity so as to equip you with the tools necessary to provide answers to questions pertaining to your faith and the reason of your faith.

#### II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Articulate the basic tenets of the apologetics discipline and demonstrate an understanding of its Biblical foundation.
- Develop a mature understanding of current cultural and societal worldviews.
- Demonstrate competence in discussing issues pertaining to the concept of evil, the existence of God, the fallacies behind the Da Vinci Code as well as integrate all information to respond when asked.

#### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

##### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. DGM 102 Booklet (provided on 1<sup>st</sup> day of class)

##### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **In-class discussion and participation:** 20% of final grade.
2. **A letter to an Atheist:** Due Oct. 22, 2010: 40% of final grade.
3. **PowerPoint presentation:** Presented in class on Oct 29, 2010: 40% of final grade.

### **C. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

**Title Page and Documentation:** The title page should include the name of the course, name of the instructor, title of the paper/assignment, student's name, and the date due. Students are expected to honestly reflect use of materials other than their own. The Church does not tolerate plagiarism in any form. Any sources used in the paper should be properly documented as a reference or bibliography at the end of the paper.

**Papers** must be typed and double-spaced. Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments in hard copy or electronic form. Proper spelling, grammar and style are expected.

**Class policy on late assignment:** For each day late, the grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade. Extensions will be considered if the circumstances are extreme. No final assignments or examinations will be accepted later than Friday June 10, 2011. Requests for an extension of the due date must be submitted to the course instructor prior to the due date for the assignment.

**Assignments may be handed in at the course session. Only hardcopies are accepted, no email copies will be graded.**

### **D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

1. **In-class discussion:**
  - a. You are required to actively participate in class discussion by answering questions when asked, asking thought-provoking questions and participating in general in the discussion of any subject.
2. **Letter to an Atheist:**
  - a. Write a 2-page minimum letter to a person at school who told you he/she does not believe in God's existence. This letter is in the form of an email where you explain to this person that God actually exists. You should write it as if you are answering questions that he/she asked you about this subject. You will be marked for your style, content and ability to convince.
3. **PowerPoint Presentation:**
  - a. In a group of 5 people, you will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on ONE of the following topics: humanism, postmodernism, relative moralism, religious knowing or Truth/Tolerance. Material for these subjects can be found at the following link:  
<http://www.suscopts.org/resources/literature/apologetics/>
4. In order to pass this course, you need to earn an overall grade of not less than 75%.

#### **IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS**

##### **SESSION 1    OCT 1**

- Introduction to Apologetics

##### **SESSION 2    OCT 8**

- The Problem of Evil

##### **SESSION 3    OCT 15**

- Does God Exist?

##### **SESSION 4    OCT 22**

##### **(Letter to an Atheist - Due)**

- The Truth behind the Da Vinci Code

##### **SESSION 5    OCT 29**

- Group Presentations