

**Birmingham Theological Seminary**  
**2200 Briarwood Way**  
**Birmingham, Alabama 35243**  
**205-776-5354**

**Spring 2010**  
**AP 8525 APOLOGETICS AND THE BIBLE**  
**Professor: Dr. Steve Cowan**  
**2 hours**

**SYLLABUS**  
**Work Phone: (205) 970-9227**  
**Home Phone: (205) 824-5095**  
**Email: scowan@sebc.edu**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE**

A study of the defense of the historical reliability, inerrancy, and divine authority of the Bible. The course will focus on giving responses to major objections to the reliability and authority of the Bible, including the challenges of contemporary historical Jesus research. The purpose of the course is to equip the student to give a sound and persuasive defense of the Bible's inspiration and authority.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will become familiar with the skeptical objections that may be made to biblical inerrancy and authority.
2. The student will become familiar with the methods and findings of current historical Jesus research.
3. The student will develop a sound apologetic response to the objections to biblical inerrancy and authority and to the skeptical findings of historical Jesus research.
4. The student will learn a theological and philosophical rationale for biblical inerrancy and authority.

**COURSE TEXTS**

Geisler, Norman L. Ed. *Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.  
Komoszewski, Ed J., et al, *Reinventing Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2006.  
Wilkins, Michael J. and J.P. Moreland. *Jesus Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Exams.** There will be two take-home exams during the course. These exams will consist of short answer and essay questions designed to evaluate the student's grasp of the course material and his/her ability to critically evaluate that material. Each exam is worth 100 points.
2. **Term Paper.** Each student will be required to write a 12-page research paper relevant to the content and purposes of the course. Further instructions for this paper will be provided later by your instructor. This paper is worth 100 points.

GRADE: The student's final grade will be based upon the average of the total points received on the exams and term paper.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

### Unit I: The Explication of the Divine Authority of Scripture

1/25	Challenges to Inspiration and Inerrancy What Do We Mean by "Inspired"?	
2/1	What Do We Mean by "Inerrant"?	G 267-304, 151-193
	Why Do We Restrict Inerrancy to the Autographs?	
2/8	Was the Bible Accurately Transmitted?	K 53-117
2/15	Do We Have the Right Canon?	K 121-166

### Unit II: The Rationale for the Divine Authority of Scripture

2/22	God & the Expectation for Revelation	WM 178-200, 1-28
	The Jesus of Faith and History	
3/1	The Jesus of Faith and History (cont.)	WM 28-44, 207-229, K 15-50
3/8	The Jesus of Faith and History (cont.)	WM 51-94
3/22	The Jesus of Faith and History (cont.)	WM 101-152, K 219-258
	FIRST EXAM DUE	
3/29	The Jesus of Faith and History (cont.)	WM 152-176, K 169-193
4/5	Jesus' & the Apostles' View of Scripture	G 3-53

### Unit III: The Rationality of the Divine Authority of Scripture

4/12	Other Evidences for the Inspiration of the Bible	Handouts, G 57-82
	Dealing with Alleged Errors	
4/19	Dealing with Alleged Errors (cont.)	
4/26	Critique of Higher Criticism	G 85-113, Handouts
	Rationality of Inerrancy	
	TERM PAPERS DUE 4/28	
	SECOND EXAM DUE 4/30	