

Concordia Theological Seminary
Continuing Education

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH IN THE
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

Adam S. Francisco, D.Phil.
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Course Description

Christianity faces a multitude of challenges. Postmodernism has eviscerated its distinctive character and claim to exclusive truth. A resurgent atheistic secularism accuses it of being antiquated and intellectually untenable. And popular academics continue to discredit its divine and historical origin while, in the meantime, the world's religions offer a host of alternative theologies and worldviews to fill the void. What is a Christian to do? This crash course in apologetics examines the major adversaries of Christianity and explores avenues for articulating and defending the faith in light of these and other contemporary challenges.

Course Outline

1. Christian Witness in the Public Square
2. Faith, Reason, and History
3. Engaging Secular Philosophies
4. Engaging the Academy: Ehrman, Pagels, et al.
5. Engaging Islam
6. Engaging the World's Other Religions

Pre-Course Assignments

Read: D. Story, *Christianity on the Offense* (Kregel, 1998).

Required Texts

D. Story, *Christianity on the Offense* (Kregel, 1998).

Suggested Reading

F.F. Bruce, *The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament* (Eerdmans, 1977).
C. Evans, *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels* (IVP, 2006).
N. Geisler, *Answering Islam* (Baker, 2002).
P. Griffiths, *An Apology for Apologetics* (Wipf & Stock, 2007).
D. Marshall, *The Truth behind the New Atheism* (Harvest House, 2007).
J.W. Montgomery, *History, Law, and Christianity* (Canadian Institute for Law, Theology, and Public Policy, 2002).

J.W. Montgomery, *Tractatus Logico-Theologicus* [in English] (*Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft*, 2002); available through Canadian Institute for Law, Theology, and Public Policy.
C. Parton, *The Defense Never Rests* (CPH, 2003).