

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# CA201: Ten Reasons to Believe in the Christian Faith

An Our Daily Bread Ministries *Day of Discovery* Study

### Course Description

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People have many reasons for rejecting the Christian faith. Some may admire Christ but dislike his followers. Others find it difficult to accept any faith that claims to be the only way to God. Why would anyone limit themselves to only one of the world's great religions? If the Christian faith is the true path to God, what is the evidence for this? This course will examine the credibility of its founder, the reliability of its book, its explanation for life, its impact on society, its offer of salvation, and other topics to discover *Ten Reasons to Believe in the Christian Faith*.

### Course Objectives

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- To introduce students to the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith
- To provide scholarly and historical evidence for the validity of Christianity
- To encourage logical thinking in evaluating the authenticity of the teachings of Jesus and of the Bible

### Accessibility

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If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

### Academic Honesty

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At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

**Quizzes and Exams:** Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

**Plagiarism:** If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at [registrar@cugn.org](mailto:registrar@cugn.org) or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

## Course Methods

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Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

### Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Video-based teaching**

If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.

- **Multisensory learning**

For students who wish to use a medium other than video, we provide the option of reading the lesson from a transcript of the teaching video (found in the Class Time section). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

- **Readings and other media**

Students should have a copy of the Bible available in order to read the sections of the Bible assigned in each lesson. In addition, Scripture passages are linked to online Bible tools for convenience. These online resources also provide an opportunity for students for whom English is a second language to read the Bible passages in one of numerous international translations available.

For all other required reading assignments, CUGN provides the texts for this course in a downloadable Adobe® PDF format.

### Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

## Response Time

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors; students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

## Personal Reflection Journal

Students will be asked to record their thoughts in a Personal Reflection Journal. These entries can be viewed only by the student and by the site administrator, and are not graded.

## Lesson Objectives

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At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

### Lesson 1: The Credibility of Its Founder

- Articulate reasons for the credibility of Christ being crucial to the truth claims of the Christian faith
- Build a biblical case for Christ being the only way to God
- Explain the relationship between Christ's claims to deity and His miraculous works

### Lesson 2: The Reliability of Its Book, the Bible

- Recall how the origin and timeless relevance of the Bible support its claim to be the Word of God
- Cite key Bible texts that explain the doctrine of inspiration
- Learn key concepts of Bible content

### Lesson 3: Its Explanation for Life

- Explain from the life of Solomon the concept of activity apart from a relationship with God leading to futility
- Show from David's life how Bible and prayer orientations are necessary for a growing relationship with God
- Identify the basic questions of life and cite key Bible verses that provide answers to those questions
- Provide key biblical arguments for the existence of God

### Lesson 4: Its Continuity with the Past

- Explain the importance of historic continuity in the person and work of Jesus Christ
- Summarize Stephen's review of Jewish history as it related to Christ
- Show how Jesus is illustrated in Jewish holidays

### Lesson 5: Its Foundational Claim of Resurrection

- Articulate why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is foundational to Christianity
- Recall the context and content of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost
- Understand the role of speaker, hearer, and God in responding to the gospel message
- Cite evidence in support of Christ's resurrection

### Lesson 6: Its Power to Change Lives

- List spiritual activities in the early church in Jerusalem and explain the vital witness of those activities to the community
- Cite key Bible verses on themes of evangelism, persecution, and the Holy Spirit
- Describe the various ministries of the Holy Spirit and provide Scriptural support for each

### Lesson 7: Its Analysis of Human Nature

- Demonstrate ways in which the biblical doctrine of the image of God and human depravity is the most realistic view of human nature
- Cite key biblical texts that support the concept of both the image of God in man and the depravity of man
- Build a case for saving faith as the means by which God justifies a sinner before Him
- Explain key concepts of justification and support each concept with Scripture references

### Lesson 8: Its View of Human Achievement

- Give historical evidence showing that advances in technology do not necessarily result in the human race progressing to a higher moral conduct
- Provide key biblical passages that show a moral decline amidst remarkable human achievements
- Explain ways in which end time prophecies are both pessimistic and optimistic concerning the future of the human race
- Exhibit a familiarity with end time chronology

### Lesson 9: Its Impact on Society

- Recall various ways Christianity has had an impact on societies
- Cite key Scripture passages that describe the spiritual and moral influence of believers
- Discuss the apostles' view of secular government
- Show why gospel proclamation and establishment of churches is a higher priority than social action
- Distinguish the differing roles of Christian community and secular government

### Lesson 10: Its Offer of Salvation

- Distinguish saving faith in Christ from the label "Christian" as may be derived from

nationality, baptism, or church attendance

- Illustrate ways in which Bible study can assist in bringing someone to faith in Christ
- Cite key Bible references concerning the spiritual security of the believer
- Explain the biblical doctrine of justification by faith and use Scripture references to support the answer

## Course Requirements

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In order to receive credit, the student must complete the course requirements within a 90-day period. Course requirements include:

- Viewing the Class Time lectures for each lesson
- Completing the Reading Assignment for each lesson
- Composing adequate responses to all questions in the Response Time forums (see below for details)
- Reading the material in the Further Study section
- Keeping a Personal Reflection Journal in response to reflection questions
- Taking each lesson quiz and a final examination, scoring a 70% or higher average

Additional information about these requirements is provided below.

### CLASS TIME

Each of the lessons in this course contains a lecture of approximately four to ten minutes in length. These instructional videos are required viewing, and can be watched as many times as needed. The same content is available in an audio file and a text file (PDF) for students who can benefit from these alternative media. This course includes the following Class Time lectures:

- The Credibility of Its Founder
- The Reliability of Its Book, the Bible
- Its Explanation for Life
- Its Continuity with the Past
- Its Foundational Claim of Resurrection
- Its Power to Change Lives
- Its Analysis of Human Nature
- Its View of Human Achievement
- Its Impact on Society
- Its Offer of Salvation

### READING ASSIGNMENT

Complete all readings listed in the Reading Assignment section of each lesson.

## RESPONSE TIME

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded forum of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the Response Time forum, students should complete the assignment after they have completed the Class Time lecture. Then they should return to the Response Time forum after finishing the lesson to see how others respond. The following steps are instructions to the students for completing the assignment:

- Enter Response Time
- Read the instructions and click the Discussion Question you wish to respond to first.
- Read the Discussion Question and share your thoughts with others.
- Repeat for each Discussion Question.
- Take the time to read other students' postings.

CUGN requires that students' discussion forum posts consist of at least 2 to 3 well-developed paragraphs. Think of posts as mini-essays, where you present an idea and support that idea with details, examples, personal experiences, etc.

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

## FURTHER STUDY

The Bible reading or study assignments covered in the Further Study section should be read completely at least once and responses to questions are to be recorded in the students' Personal Reflection Journals.

## QUIZZES AND EXAM

The quizzes and exam will cover the material from the Class Time lectures, Reading Assignment, and Further Study.

## Course Grading and Requirements

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### QUIZZES AND EXAM

Quizzes	40% of Course Grade
Final Exam	60% of Course Grade

### OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before credit is awarded to any student.

## Notes Regarding This Syllabus

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This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. Specific assignments are contained in each lesson.

Individuals taking the class for academic credit are responsible for the syllabus requirements of the specific institution through which the course is offered. Each individual institution has reserved the right to add additional reading requirements and to alter the syllabus to meet their accreditation requirements. Students seeking academic credit should check with their academic institution for details.

## Optional Additional Reading

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Additional study on this topic can be found in many publications including the following recommended books:

- *Letters from a Skeptic*, Gregory Boyd
- *The Pocket Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, Peter Kreeft
- *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis
- *The Helper*, Catherine Marshall
- *Evidence for Faith*, John Warwick Montgomery
- *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Josh McDowell
- *Reason for the Hope Within*, Michael Murray, ed
- *Faith and Reason*, Ronald Nash
- *Protestant Christian Evidences*, Bernard Ramm
- *Basic Christianity*, John R. W. Stott
- *The Case for Faith*, Lee Strobel
- *Can Man Live Without God?*, Ravi Zacharias