

COURSE SYLLABUS

CA203: Ten Reasons to Believe in the Existence of God

An Our Daily Bread Ministries *Day of Discovery* Study

Course Description

For centuries, thoughtful people have questioned the existence of God. They have proposed that the belief in a higher power was invented by people who needed a sense of protection and spiritual meaning. Yet despite this and other challenges, there are convincing evidences that support a credible belief in the God of the Bible. This course will examine the limits of science, the argument for intelligent design in nature, the claims of Christ, and much more in an investigation of *Ten Reasons to Believe in the Existence of God*.

Course Objectives

- 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

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

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 or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

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

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

Lesson 1: The Inevitability of Faith

- Provide reason and evidence for the concept that faith is an inevitable part of life
- Build a case for a biblical approach to God’s existence
- Recall the four revelations of God and provide supporting evidence for each

Lesson 2: The Limitations of Science

- Explain what science can demonstrate concerning the physical world and what its limitations are in verifying spiritual realities
- Recall the four classic arguments for the existence of God
- List six views about the nature of God

Lesson 3: The Problems with Evolution

- Show in what ways Darwin was correct and in what ways he was wrong in his observations of adapted species
- Explain what it means to believe in the Genesis account of creation
- Answer key questions about evolution and the biblical record

Lesson 4: The Habits of the Heart

- Show in what ways human beings are “incurably religious”
- Explain how even those who deny God’s existence still show a yearning for Him
- List five criteria for testing the truth of biblical Christianity

Lesson 5: The Background of Genesis

- Articulate the first five reasons to believe in the existence of God
- Explain the four major events of the book of Genesis
- Recall key biblical characters in Genesis
- Show how the role of Jesus Christ in redemption is prophesied in Genesis

Lesson 6: The Nation of Israel

- Recognize the reality of the Holocaust and its significance in regard to the survival of Israel
- Explain the importance of Moses' predicting a Promised Land and his prophecy's relationship to great suffering for the Jewish people
- Understand the basic content of Ezekiel and its view of the nation Israel
- Recall key Bible passages that support the future restoration of Israel

Lesson 7: The Claims of Christ

- Use key New Testament texts to support the deity of Jesus Christ
- Explain how the claims of Christ cannot be reduced to His being only a moral teacher
- Show how Messianic names contained in Isaiah apply to Jesus Christ

Lesson 8: The Evidence of Miracles

- Understand the importance of miracles as evidence for the existence of God
- Explain the theological importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- List the key evidences for the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Answer major objections of those who challenge the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Lesson 9: The Details of Nature

- Provide credible arguments for the existence of God based on the design of nature
- Cite key Scripture passages in support God's existence based in design in the universe
- Celebrate the wonder of creation by writing an essay or a poem about it
- Explain the relationship of humans to both God and creation

Lesson 10: The Voice of Experience

- Identify the changes that occur in a life lived in relationship with Jesus
- Cite key Bible passages that clarify what it means to have a personal relationship with God
- Explain what is meant by "hearing God speak"
- List several characteristics involved in having a personal relationship with God

Course Requirements

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 Inevitability of Faith
- The Limitations of Science
- The Problems with Evolution
- The Habits of the Heart
- The Background of Genesis
- The Nation of Israel
- The Claims of Christ
- The Evidence of Miracles
- The Details of Nature
- The Voice of Experience

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

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

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.