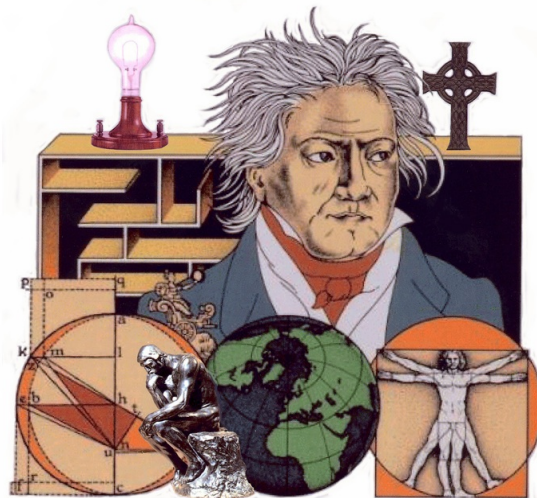


# Course Catalogue

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## Seminars and Workshops in

- Biblical studies
- Christian history
  - Apologetics
- Contemporary cultural studies
  - Christian spirituality
- Science and Christian faith
  - Literature and the arts



# Areopagus Seminars and Workshops

The Areopagus\* is a Christian education ministry and study center that provides seminars, workshops and forums on topics relevant to contemporary Christian life and education.

The mission of The Areopagus is to educate and equip Christians to understand their faith in more depth so they can engage others more effectively with the life-transforming truth and love of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer a substantive seminary-level curriculum that broadens and deepens their knowledge base, stimulates critical thinking, and challenges them to live faithfully and consistently in accord with the principles and practices of a Biblical Christian worldview.

Areopagus seminars and workshops are seminary-level courses that are offered at a nominal cost, and include a wide variety of topics in Biblical studies, Christian history, apologetics, contemporary cultural issues, Christian spirituality, and literature and the arts.

Our basic core curriculum is the **Areopagus Christian Studies Institute (ACSI)**, a substantive 6-semester sequence of courses in Christian history and a similar 7-semester series in Christian apologetics. (Please see page 2 for an outline of the ACSI curriculum.) This is a systematic and comprehensive curriculum for Christians who want to broaden and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, and it is ideal for those who desire to teach Christian history or apologetics in their church or some other venue.



In addition to our ACSI curriculum, we offer an expanded **General Curriculum** of seminars and workshops in Apologetics, The Arts, Christian History, Christian Spirituality, Contemporary Cultural Issues, General History, and World Religions. Many seminars are one-semester (20-hour) courses, but we also offer short-term (4-12 hour) classes on various topics.

Through our seminars, workshops, and other special events, The Areopagus provides a unique opportunity for Christians to come together in an interdenominational learning environment that is intellectually stimulating, socially engaging, and spiritually edifying.

*Jeffrey D. Breshears*

Founder and President, The Areopagus

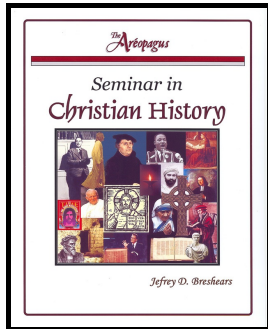
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\* In Christian history the name 'Areopagus' has often represented the intersection of Christian faith and culture. In first century Athens the Areopagus functioned as a philosophical and cultural forum for the exchange of ideas, and it was there that the apostle Paul brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to Europe.

# Areopagus Christian Studies Institute

The Areopagus Christian Studies Institute is an extensive seminary-level curriculum in Christian history and apologetics that builds on a foundation of Biblical literacy to educate and equip Christians to understand their faith in more depth and share it more effectively with non-Christians.

## A Survey of Christian History



A comprehensive 6-semester sequence of courses that covers the significant people, issues, and events in Christian history from the founding of the early church through the Reformation era. Each semester is a 20-hour self-contained course. This curriculum is ideal for Christians who want to broaden and deepen their understanding of the origins, expansion, and development of Christianity through the ages.

### Semester 1: **Christian History: The Cultural Context**

- The history, culture and religion of classical Greco-Roman (Hellenistic) civilization from 500 B.C. to the time of Christ.
- The history, culture and religion of Hebrew/Jewish civilization from Abraham to the time of Christ.

Semester 2: **Jesus and the Apostolic Age** (c. 1-100 A.D.)

Semester 3: **The Post-Apostolic and Constantinian Eras** (c. 100-430)

Semester 4: **Medieval Christendom** (c. 400-1300)

Semester 5: **The Late Medieval Era and Prelude to the Reformation** (c. 1300-1517)

Semester 6: **The Reformation Era** (c. 1517-1650)

## Frontline Apologetics: Defending the Christian Faith in a Skeptical Culture

A systematic 7-semester sequence of courses that focuses on the major apologetics issues related to the Christian faith. Each semester is a 20-hour self-contained course. This in-depth curriculum prepares Christians to understand and respond to the toughest challenges by skeptics and share their faith more knowledgeably and effectively with non-Christians.

### Semester 1: **Apologetics Foundations**

- The foundations and importance of Christian apologetics.
- The absolute truth about relativism.
- Reason, science, and Christian faith.
- Classical and contemporary arguments for the existence of God.

### Semester 2: **Alternative Universes: A Study of Comparative Worldviews**

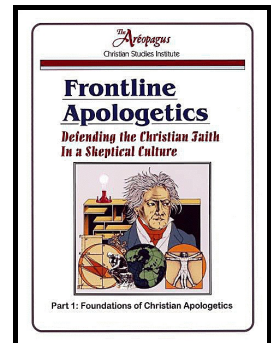
- An in-depth comparison of Biblical Christian Theism with alternative worldviews including Deism, Atheistic Naturalism, Nihilism, Existentialism, Eastern Pantheism, Postmodernism, and the New Age.

### Semester 3: **The Theodicy Issue: Reconciling the Problem of God and Evil**

- If "God is great" and "God is good," why are evil and suffering so pervasive in this world?
- A biblical, philosophical and existential analysis of the theodicy issue.

### Semester 4: **The Historical Search for the Real Jesus: Reconciling the 'Jesus of History' and the 'Christ of Faith'**

- Are the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life historically reliable or mostly mythical and legendary?
- A history and critique of the "Jesus Quest" from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. to modern skeptics such as the Jesus Seminar.
- Why we can trust that the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life are reliable.



## Frontline Apologetics

(Continued)

### Semester 5: **Bibliology: Developing a Philosophy of the Bible**

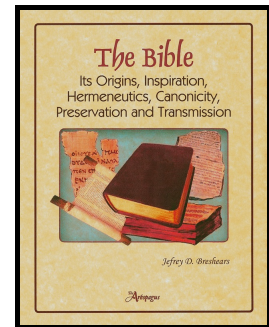
- Developing a reasoned philosophy of the Bible, including issues related to divine inspiration, hermeneutics, canonicity, and the preservation and transmission of the biblical manuscripts through the centuries.

### Semester 6: **Special Issues in Apologetics**

- The scientific evidence for life after death.
- Christianity and other religions.
- Divine justice and hell.
- Divine sovereignty and human free will.

### Semester 7: **Frontline Apologetics: How to Respond to Honest Questions by Spiritual Seekers, Critical Challenges by Religious Skeptics, and Fallacious Comments by Argumentative Contrarians**

- One reason why so many Christians are hesitant to share their faith is because they feel unprepared to handle tough questions and challenges from spiritual seekers and religious skeptics (not to mention, questions by children and grandchildren!). This course focuses on many of the issues that non-Christians raise (both legitimate and fallacious), and equips Christians to handle these objections clearly, thoughtfully and effectively.
- NOTE: This course is the culmination of our Frontline Apologetics series, but can also be used as a practical introduction to Christian apologetics.



## General Curriculum

The following is a list of Areopagus seminars by general topic (exclusive of those listed above in the curriculum of our Areopagus Christian Studies Institute). Many of these seminars are one semester (20-hour) courses, while others are shorter 6- or 12-hour studies.

## Apologetics

### **Why Christians Should Study Apologetics: The Problem of Christian Anti-Intellectualism**

#### **A Mere Christian: The Life and Works of C. S. Lewis**

#### **C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity***

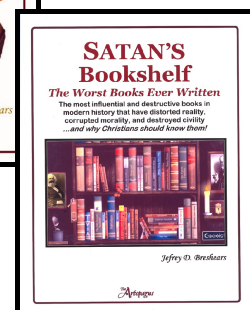
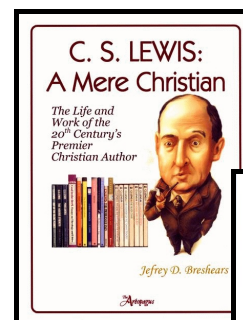
#### **Socrates Meets Jesus: A Pilgrim's Progress From Agnosticism to Christianity**

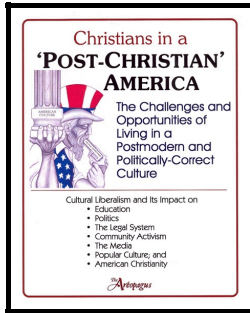
#### **Satan's Bookshelf: The Worst Books Ever Written... and Why Christians Should Know Them!**

- A review and critique of 30 books in modern history that have distorted reality, corrupted morality, and undermined civility – from Machiavelli's *The Prince* (1513) to Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion* (2006).

#### **Ten Myths Related to Science and Christianity**

- True Christianity and true science are complementary, not contradictory. This course explores ten popular myths including:
  - “Science is the only true path to knowledge;”
  - “Historically, Christianity has been an impediment to the advancement of science;”
  - “Intelligent Design is merely a ‘God of the gaps’ argument against naturalistic evolution;” and
  - “Theistic evolution resolves the conflict between evolution and Christian faith.”





(Cultural Apologetics)

**Christians in a 'Post-Christian' America: The Challenges and Opportunities of Living in a Postmodern and 'Politically-Correct' Culture**

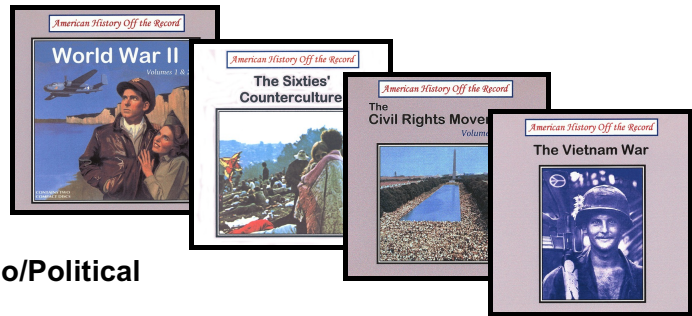
- The origins and major issues in America's contemporary culture war, with a special emphasis on the historical and ideological origins of cultural liberalism and 'Political Correctness'.

The Arts & Entertainment

**A Christian Guide To Watching and Evaluating Movies**

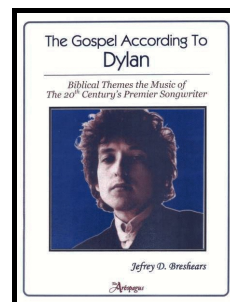
**American History Off the Record: Part 1**

- How popular music can supplement and enrich our understanding of the major issues and events in American history from World War I through the Sixties era (c. 1914-74).
  - Part 1: World War I
  - Part 2: The Great Depression
  - Part 3: World War II
  - Part 4: The Civil Rights Movement
  - Part 5: Politics and Protest in the Sixties
  - Part 6: The Vietnam War
  - Part 7: The Sixties Counterculture
  - Part 8: The Sexual Revolution



**When the Music Mattered: Significant Socio/Political Singer/Songwriters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

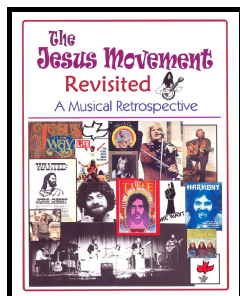
- A review and critique of the life and works of 12 significant singer/songwriters whose music defined and influenced 20<sup>th</sup> century American culture, including...
  - Woody Guthrie
  - Pete Seeger
  - Tom Lehrer
  - Bob Dylan
  - Phil Ochs
  - Paul Simon
  - Joni Mitchell
  - John Denver
  - Jackson Browne
  - Bruce Cockburn
  - Kate Wolf
  - Mary Chapin Carpenter



**The Gospel According to Dylan**

- Biblical and spiritual themes in the music of Bob Dylan.

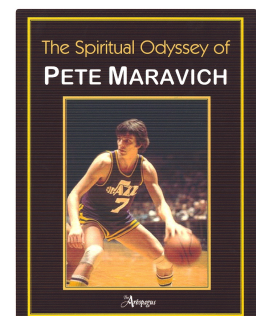
**The Jesus Movement Revisited: A Musical Retrospective**



- The history and music of the Jesus Movement of the late 1960s and early '70s, the last widespread spiritual renewal movement in American history.

**The Spiritual Odyssey of Pete Maravich**

- The life and times of "Pistol Pete" Maravich, from his phenomenal basketball career to alcohol addiction, mental depression, and an intense spiritual search that culminated in a life-changing conversion to Christianity just a few years prior to his untimely death at age 40.



## Christian History & Biography

(NOTE: Also see the courses listed in the Areopagus Christian Studies Institute's "Seminars in Christian History" on page 2.)

### Why Study Christian History? The Value of Understanding the Past

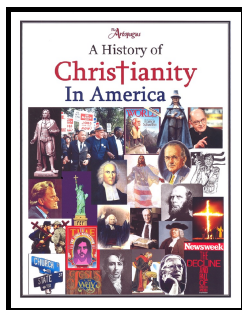
#### Beyond the Bible: A Study of Early Christian Literature

- A study of the writings of the Church Fathers and other early Christian literature from the late-1st century (*The Didache, I Clement, etc.*) to Augustine.

#### Women In the Early Church: A Biblical and Historical Study

#### A History of Christianity in America

- A comprehensive 4-semester series of courses that covers the most significant people, issues, and events in American Christian history from the colonial times to the present.

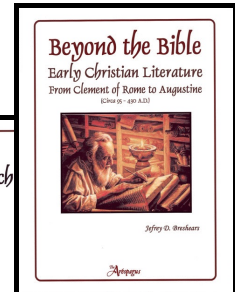
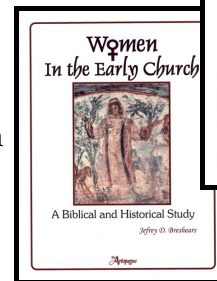


- Semester 1: **From the Colonial Era Through the American Revolution** (c. 1607-1783)

- Semester 2: **From the Founding of the American Republic To the Civil War** (c. 1787-1860)

- Part 3: **From the Civil War To the Emergence of Modern Evangelicalism** (c. 186-1940)

- Part 4: **From 1940 To the Present**



### Lights of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- The life and major works of significant and influential 20<sup>th</sup> century Christians including:
  - Watchman Nee
  - Sadhu Sundar Singh
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - Martin Luther King Jr.
  - Aleksander Solzhenitsyn
  - Malcolm Muggeridge
  - Billy Graham
  - Henry Nouwen

## Christian Spirituality & Spiritual Psychology

### Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography

#### The Inner Journey: An Introduction to the Tradition and Practice of Contemplative Spirituality

#### Henri Nouwen's *The Way of the Heart*

#### Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*

#### Dallas Willard's *The Renovation of the Heart*

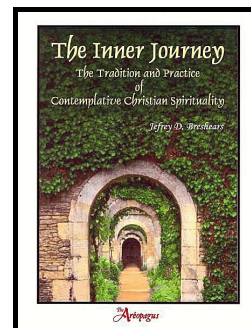
#### Readings in Contemplative Spirituality

#### Viktor Frankle's *Man's Search for Meaning*

#### Philip Rieff's *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*

#### Paul Vitz's *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship*

#### Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled*



## General History

**Ancient Civilizations to 300 B.C.**

**Ancient and Classical Greece: From Mycenaean Greece to Alexander the Great**

**Ancient and Classical Rome**

**The Crusades: The Origins, Major Campaigns, and Legacy**

**A Survey of United States History, Part I: 1492-1860**

**A Survey of United States History, Part II: 1861-1930**

**A Survey of United States History, Part III: 1930-2010**

**Destructive Generation: The Sixties Revisited**

## World Religions and Major Cults

**A History of Israel and the Jews, Part 1: From Abraham to Jesus**

**A History of Israel and the Jews, Part 2: From the First Century A.D. to the Present**

**A History of Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust**

**The History and Theology of Islam**

**The History and Theology of Mormonism**

**The Vedic Tradition and Hinduism**

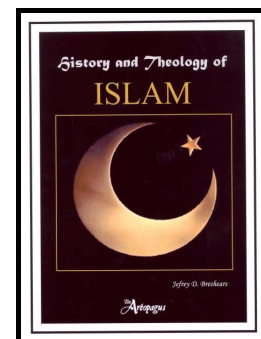
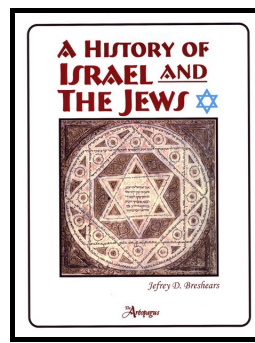
**The Life and Teachings of Mahatma Gandhi**

**Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet***

**Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha***

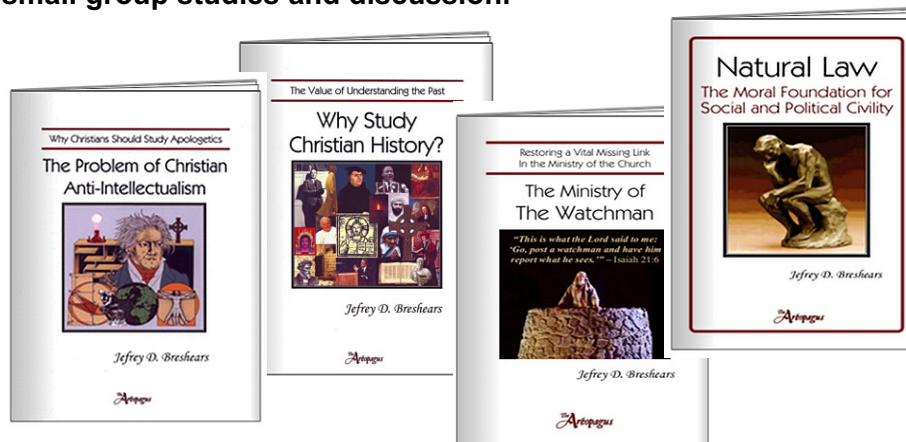
**Buddhism**

**China's Religious and Philosophical Tradition**



## Areopagus Publications

**Booklets for small group studies and discussion.**



For more information on The Areopagus, please visit our website at  
[www.TheAreopagus.org](http://www.TheAreopagus.org)

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