

The Areopagus

Course Catalogue

Seminars and Workshops in

Biblical studies

Christian history

Apologetics

Contemporary cultural studies

Contemplative spirituality

Science and Christian faith

Literature and the arts



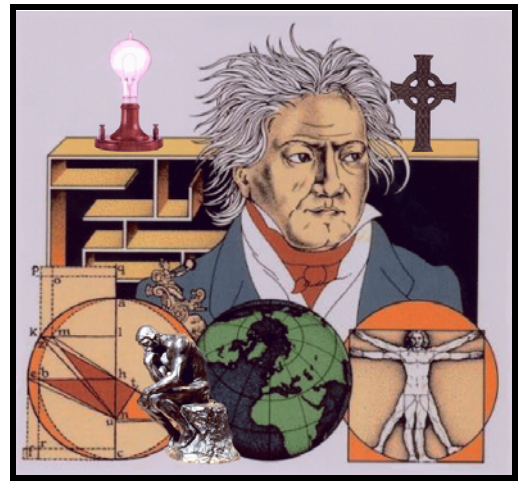
Areopagus Seminars and Workshops

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, contemplative 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 6-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

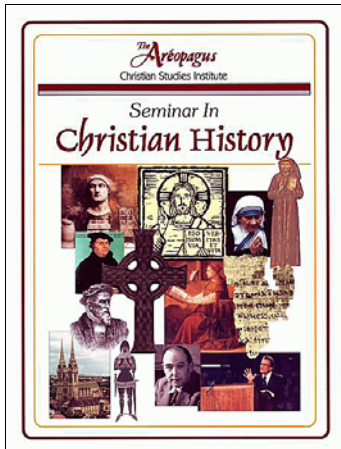
Founder and President, The Areopagus

* In Christian history the name 'Areopagus' has often represented the intersection of Christ 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 a substantive 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.

Seminar in Christian History



A comprehensive 6-semester sequence of courses that covers the most significant people, issues, and events in Christian history from the founding of the early church to the 21st century. 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: The Cultural Context: Jewish and Greco/Roman Culture and Religion in 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. 100-450)

Semester 4: Medieval Christendom (c. 400-1500)

Semester 5: The Reformation Era (c. 1500-1650)

Semester 6: Christianity in America From 1607 to the Present

Frontline Apologetics: Defending the Christian Faith in a Skeptical Culture

A systematic 6-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.
- The God Who Is: The Classical Arguments for the Existence of God.

Semester 2: Alternative Universes: A Study of Worldviews

- Basic Christian Theism.
- Deism.
- Naturalism.
- Nihilism.
- Existentialism.
- Eastern Pantheism.
- The New Age.
- Postmodernism.

Semester 3: The Theodicy Issue: The Problem of God and Evil

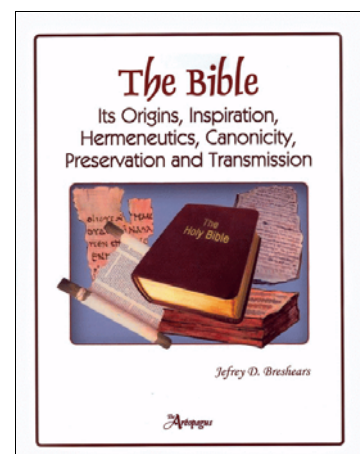
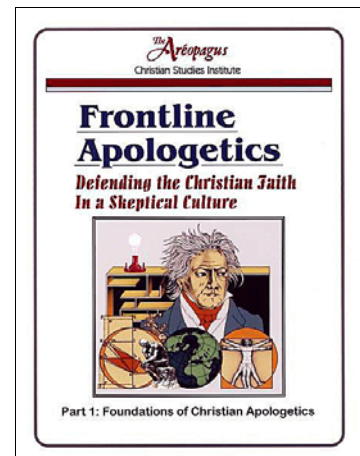
Semester 4: Developing a Philosophy of the Bible

- Biblical Inspiration, Canonicity, Preservation, and Transmission.

Semester 5: The Historical Search for the 'Real Jesus'

Semester 6: Special Issues in Apologetics

- Is There Life After Death?
- Christianity and Other Religions.
- Divine Justice and Hell.
- Divine Sovereignty and Human Free Will, etc....



General Curriculum

The following is a list of Areopagus seminars by general topic. Most seminars are one-semester (20-hour) courses unless otherwise noted.

Apologetics

(NOTE: The following seminars are in addition to the courses listed in the Areopagus Christian Studies Institute's Frontline Apologetics curriculum on page 2.)

Developing a Christian Mind: Truth, Logic, and Critical Thinking (10 hrs.)

Why Study Christian Apologetics? The Value of Defending the Christian Faith (4 hrs.)

A Mere Christian: The Life and Works of C. S. Lewis (6 hrs.)

C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* (24 hrs.)

Socrates Meets Jesus: A Pilgrim's Progress From Paganism to Christianity (10 hrs.)

Developing the Case for Christ (12 hrs.)

- Based on Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christ*.

The Life and Works of G. K. Chesterton (4 hrs.)

The Life and Legacy of Francis Schaeffer (4 hrs.)

Satan's Bookshelf: The Worst Books Ever Written... and Why Christians Should Know Them (25 hrs.)

- A review and critique of 25 books in modern history that have distorted reality, corrupted morality, and undermined civility.

Makers of the Modern World (14 hrs.)

- A review and critique of the lives of some of the most significant and influential thinkers and activists of the past century-and-a-half, including **Charles Darwin, Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King**, and others.

Science and the 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, including the historical origins of cultural liberalism and the Political Correctness.

The Arts & Entertainment

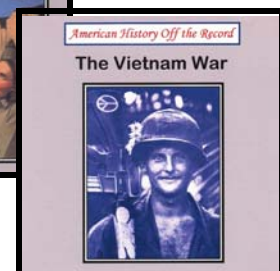
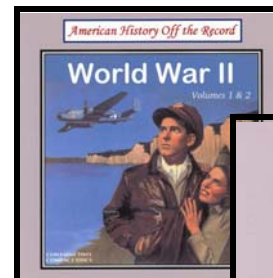
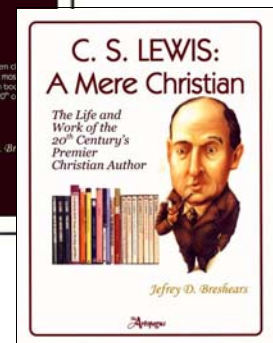
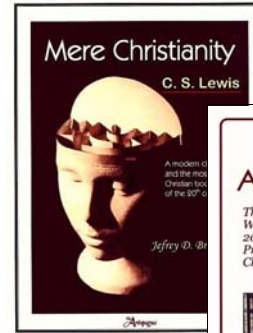
A Christian Guide To Watching and Evaluating a Movie (3 hrs.)

American History Off the Record: Part 1 (10 hrs.)

- How popular music enriches our understanding of significant themes in American history during three eras:
 - World War I
 - The Great Depression
 - World War II.

American History Off the Record: Part 2 (12 hrs.)

- How popular music enriches our understanding of significant themes in American history in the Sixties era (c. 1960-75):
 - The Civil Rights Movement
 - Politics and Protest in the Sixties
 - The Vietnam War
 - The Sixties Counterculture
 - The Sexual Revolution.



The Arts & Entertainment (continued)

Songwriters Forum: Part 1

- A review and critique of the life and music of significant socio/political singer/songwriters from the 1930s through the 1960s, including...
 - Woody Guthrie
 - Pete Seeger
 - Tom Lehrer
 - Bob Dylan
 - Phil Ochs.

Songwriters Forum: Part 2

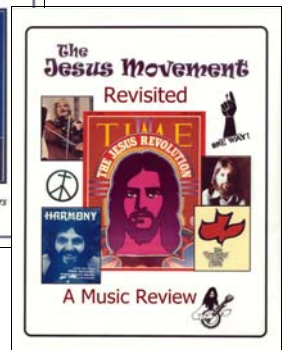
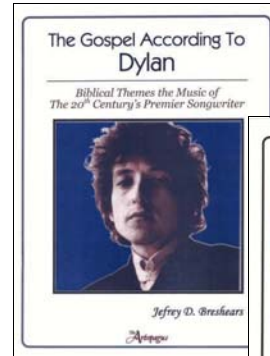
- A review and critique of the life and music of significant socio/political singer/songwriters since the 1960s, including...
 - Paul Simon
 - Joni Mitchell
 - John Denver
 - Cat Stevens
 - Jackson Browne
 - Bruce Cockburn
 - Kate Wolf
 - Mary Chapin Carpenter.

The Gospel According to Dylan (6 hrs.)

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

The Jesus Movement Revisited: A Musical Retrospective (6 hrs.)

- A retrospective on the history and music of the Jesus Movement of the late-1960s and early-1970s.



God In the Grooves: Religious Themes in Popular Music From 1960 to the Present (6 hrs.)

The Spiritual Odyssey of Pete Maravich (4 hrs.)

Christian History & Biography

(NOTE: The following seminars are in addition to 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 (4 hrs.)

Beyond the Bible: Early Christian Literature

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

Women In the Early Church: A Biblical and Historical Study

An Alternative Tradition: The Dissenting Church in History

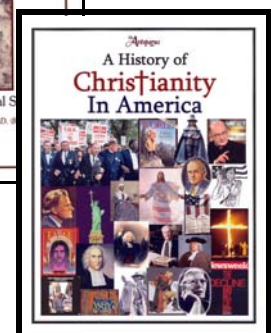
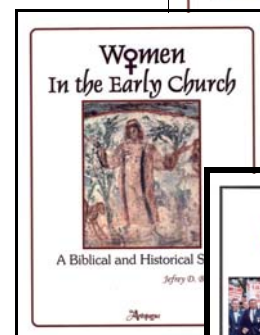
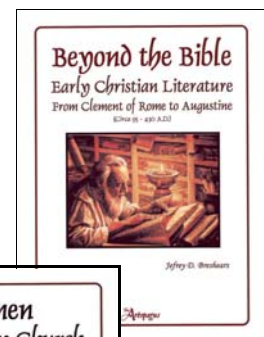
- A study of Christian dissenters from the Priscillianists of the 4th century to the Waldensians of the Middle Ages, the Anabaptists of the Reformation era

The Crusades: The Origins, Major Campaigns, and Legacy

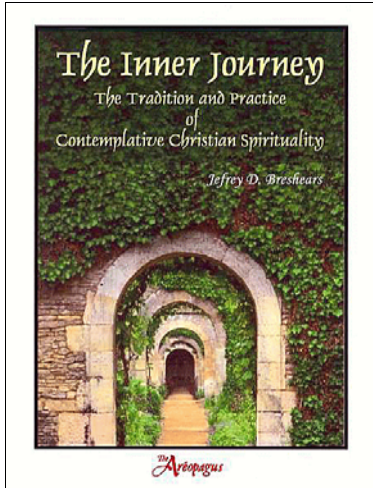
A History of Christianity in America: From the Colonial Era To the Present

Lights of the 20th Century

- The life and major works of significant and influential 20th century Christians, including...
 - Watchman Nee
 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 - Aleksander Solzhenitsyn
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Malcolm Muggeridge
 - Billy Graham
 - Mother Teresa.



Christian Spirituality & Spiritual Psychology



Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography

Henri Nouwen's *The Way of the Heart* (6 hrs.)

Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* (6 hrs.)

Dallas Willard's *The Renovation of the Heart* (6 hrs.)

The Inner Journey: The Tradition and Practice of Contemplative Spirituality

Readings on Contemplative Spirituality

Early and Medieval Contemplatives

- The life and writings of early and medieval contemplatives, including...
 - Clement of Alexandria
 - Gregory of Nyssa
 - Francis of Assisi
 - *The Cloud of Unknowing* and *Imitation of Christ*
 - Teresa of Avila
 - John of the Cross.

Contemporary Contemplatives

- The life and writings of modern contemplatives, including...
 - Sadhu Sundar Singh
 - Evelyn Underhill
 - Thomas Merton
 - Catherine de Houck Dougherty
 - Henri Nouwen
 - Bede Griffiths.

Viktor Frankle's *Man's Search for Meaning* (4 hrs.)

Philip Rieff's *The Triumph of the Therapeutic* (4 hrs.)

Paul Vitz's *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship* (4 hrs.)

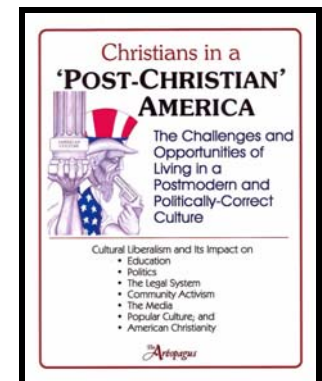
Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled* (4 hrs.)

Contemporary Cultural Issues

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, including the historical origins of cultural liberalism and Political Correctness.

Modern Socio/Political Ideologies: From Classical Conservatism to Neo-Marxism (6 hrs.)



General History

Ancient Civilizations to 300 B.C.

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

Ancient and Classical Rome

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

A Survey of United States History, Part II: 1861-1920

A Survey of United States History, Part III: 1920-2010

Destructive Generation: The Sixties Revisited

World Religions

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
(6 hrs.)

The History and Theology of Islam

Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet* (4 hrs.)

The Vedic Tradition and Hinduism

The Life and Teachings of Mahatma Gandhi

Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha* (4 hrs.)

Buddhism

China's Religious and Philosophical Tradition

