

The European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)

Course Title: Defend Your Faith

Level: Certificate

Course Objective

This course aims to equip believers with the spiritual and intellectual tools to defend the Christian faith in a world that increasingly questions it. Drawing from Scripture, patristic wisdom, and reason, the course seeks to train students in **Coptic Orthodox Christian apologetics** — presenting the truth of the Gospel through **logic, history, prophecy, and divine revelation**, while maintaining the humility and love of Christ.

As St. Paul writes, “*Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others*” (2 Corinthians 5:11). The course highlights that **evangelism is not mere emotion, but a call to unite mind and faith**, affirming that:

- The Christian faith is not imposed by force, but **presented through evidence**.
- The truth of the Gospel is not dictated, but **shared with honesty and compassion**.
- Our calling is not fear or intimidation, but **rational persuasion and heartfelt conviction**.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the biblical foundation and patristic tradition of Christian apologetics within the Coptic Orthodox Church.
2. Articulate the faith clearly and confidently in response to modern misconceptions, atheism, and relativism.
3. Explain and defend the divinity of Christ, the authenticity of Scripture, and the authority of the Church using scriptural, historical, and logical reasoning.
4. Recognise the role of humility, love, and spiritual discernment in defending the faith.
5. Develop the ability to engage in respectful and intelligent dialogue about Christian belief with people of different or no faith backgrounds.

6. Appreciate how apologetics serves as both a **witness of truth** and a **ministry of love**, leading others to Christ through understanding, not coercion.

Course Structure

1. **Introduction to Christian Apologetics**
 - Definition, purpose, and biblical foundation (2 Corinthians 5:11; 1 Peter 3:15).
2. **The Coptic Orthodox Understanding of Faith and Reason**
 - The harmony between divine revelation and human intellect.
3. **Historical Foundations of Christian Apologetics**
 - The Apostolic Fathers and the early defenders of the faith.
4. **The Divinity of Christ and the Authority of Scripture**
 - Scriptural and theological evidences.
5. **Answering Modern Challenges**
 - Addressing atheism, moral relativism, and the problem of suffering.
6. **Apologetics and Evangelism**
 - How to present the truth in love; practical methods of persuasion and testimony.
7. **Patristic Wisdom for the Modern World**
 - Insights from St. Athanasius, St. Cyril of Alexandria, and other Fathers.
8. **Integrating Faith, Logic, and Compassion in Dialogue**
 - Maintaining spiritual integrity and humility in debate.

Assessment

- Two **term exams** to evaluate overall comprehension, theological insight, and ability to apply apologetic reasoning in real-world discussions.

Prerequisites

- Basic knowledge of Christian doctrine and Scripture is recommended.
- GCSE certificate, high school, or equivalent qualification.

Delivery Method

The course will be delivered **entirely online** through TEACH's **Learning Management System (LMS)**.

- All lectures will be delivered live via **Zoom**.
- Students will have access to **recorded lectures, reading materials**, and an **online discussion forum** for interaction and questions.

Duration

October 2025 – June 2026

Certificate

Upon successful completion of the course and passing both term exams, participants will receive a **Certificate of Completion** in *Defend Your Faith* from the **European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)**. Certificates are awarded only upon full participation and successful assessment results.