

# Understanding the Christian Worldview

## Syllabus

Redeemer School of Ministry  
Spring 2016

### I. Details:

- A. Dates: January through mid-May
- B. Times: Thursday 6:30-9pm
- C. Instructor: Jim Synakowski
- D. Contact: [jim@redeemer.tv](mailto:jim@redeemer.tv)
- E. Availability: If you wish to discuss some aspect of the course, please either arrange (via email) an appointment or discuss a meeting time with me before or after class.

### II. Course Description:

This course is an introduction to a Christian worldview and defending your faith as a Christ-follower. The course will explore developing a Biblical worldview based upon biblical themes such as creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Survey some contemporary philosophical worldviews and their effects in various areas of life and culture. Explore responses to the influence of these worldviews and teach practical Christian apologetics.

### III. Course Objectives:

The student successfully completing this course should be able to:

- A. Articulate a factual foundation for their chosen worldview.
- B. Summarize the biblical plot that expresses the Christian worldview through divine and human action, emphasizing creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.
- C. Develop basic skills of disciplined worldview inquiry.
- D. Understand the similarities and differences between some contemporary worldviews.
- E. Apply an understanding of worldviews in the areas of the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and biblical studies.
- F. Draw on and use a variety of effective apologetic skills and resources.
- G. Discuss persuasive and compelling reasons for acceptance of the Christian worldview and engage in practical apologetics in defense of Christianity.

#### **IV. Course Overview:**

- A. INTRODUCTION** - Exploring the importance of evaluating, defining, and defending the way we see and respond to the world in which we live .
  
- B. FRAMEWORK** - The building blocks to a Biblical worldview.
  - 1. Creation
  - 2. Fall
  - 3. Redemption
  - 4. Restoration
  
- C. TOPICS** - Examining the issues that challenge the framework of a Biblical worldview.
  - 1. Existence of the Biblical God
  - 2. Resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - 3. Divine Inspiration of the Bible
  - 4. Problem of Evil and Suffering
  
- D. PRESUPPOSITIONS** - Evaluating the presuppositions in culture.
  - 1. Religion
  - 2. Science
  - 2. History
  - 3. Government
  - 4. Business
  
- E. CONCLUSION** - Keeping at heart what is at the heart of God.

#### **V. Course Texts:**

- A.** Pearcey, Nancy. *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity* (Study Guide Edition). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008. ISBN 978-1-433-50220-0
  
- B.** Wolters, Albert. *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview* (2nd Edition). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005. ISBN 978-0802829696
  
- C.** Anderson, James. *What's Your Worldview?: An Interactive Approach to Life's Big Questions*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2014. ISBN 978-1433538926
  
- D.** Little, Paul. *Know Why You Believe*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008. ISBN 978-0830834228

## **VI. Course Requirements:**

### **A. Class attendance and thoughtful participation.**

1. Attendance is required.
2. Please inform me in advance if you will be unable to attend class on a particular date.
3. There will be opportunity for class participation and questions during class
4. Come prepared to participate.
5. A percentage of your final grade will depend on your attendance record and your contribution in classes (thoughtful interaction with the teachers and other students).

### **B. Reading assignments.**

1. A percentage of your final grade will depend on your completed readings and assigned questions.
2. You will be penalized for each uncompleted reading assignment.

### **C. Writing assignments.**

1. Assignments are to be completed prior to the class in which they are due.
2. Papers submitted should have a title page containing all the following: the name of the course and year; your name; the teacher's name; and title of the paper/assignment.
3. Papers should be word-processed: Times New Roman, 12-pt font and double spaced for the main text; use section headings where applicable; use footnotes when needed rather than endnotes; use a Chicago or Turabian style of citations.
4. Be sure to include a standard bibliography citing sources used in the assignment.
5. A mark down in the grade will result if the requirements and guidelines are not met.

### **D. Late Work**

1. Student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and materials covered during an absence.
2. All work must be completed as scheduled. Late work will result in a lower grade.
3. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments of the class following an absence.

## **VII. Academic Honesty:**

Students are on their honor to complete assignments with integrity. This means that all written assignments are to reflect the student's own work. Where other secondary sources are used, please use proper citations and footnotes. Plagiarism will not be accepted!

Plagiarism is using the intellectual property of others without proper citation, giving the impression that it is the student's own work. Here is a guideline to avoid the possibility of plagiarism:

1. Do not simply cut and paste blocks of downloaded text into your paper; summarize or paraphrase this material first (although either way requires citation).

2. If you do record the exact words of your source, enclose them in quotation marks; whether those sources are e-mails, online discussion groups, or websites.
3. Always give proper credit if you are unsure.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines results in plagiarism. Plagiarism is a spiritual matter of character and integrity. Be aware that if assignments are discovered to be plagiarized, the assignments will be failed and could result in the failure of the course.

### VIII. Course Assignments:

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Assignment Due
1	1/28/16	Importance of Worldview/Apologetics	Registration
2	2/4/16	Who Are We?	<i>What's Your Worldview?</i>
3	2/11/16	Where Are We?	Pearcey, Foreward-Chp 1 & questions
4	2/18/16	What Is Wrong?	Wolters Chp 1-2 & questions
5	2/25/16	What Is The Answer?	Wolters Chp 3-5 & questions
6	3/3/16	Knowledge of God	Wolters Response Paper
7	3/10/16	The Resurrection	Little, Chp 1-4 & questions
8	3/17/16	God-Breathed Scripture	Little, Chp 5-8 & questions
9	3/24/16	Issues of Evil & Suffering	Little, Chp 9-12 & questions
10	3/31/16	Theology/Philosophy	Pearcey, Chp 2 & 3 presentations
11	4/14/16	Science vs Christianity?	Pearcey, Chp 5 & 6 presentations
12	4/21/16	Sociology/History	Pearcey, Chp 7 & 8 presentations
13	4/28/16	Law & Politics	Pearcey, Chp 9 & 10 presentations
14	5/5/16	Ethics & Economics	Pearcey, Chp 11 & 12 presentations
15	5/12/16	Conclusion	Synthesis Paper

(There will be additional information given in regards to the assignments)

**IX. Course Grade:**

- A. Class Participation and Attendance - 15%
- B. Readings and Guided Questions - 15%
- C. Wolter's Response Paper - 20%
- D. Total Truth Presentation - 20%
- E. Synthesis Paper - 30%