

# "CONTEMPORARY WORLDVIEWS"

## Course Syllabus (2 or 3 credit hours)

Philosophy 111

FACULTY OF RECORD: JOHN STONESTREET, M.A.

BRYAN COLLEGE (DAYTON, TN)

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### ADDITIONAL FACULTY:

(Most, but not necessarily all, of these instructors teach each two-week course. Other guest speakers will also be invited as opportunities arise.)

Michael Bauman, Ph.D. – Professor of Theology and Culture and Director of Christian Studies, Hillsdale College  
E. Calvin Beisner, Ph.D. – Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Social Ethics, Knox Theological Seminary  
Paul Boling, Ph.D. – Associate Professor of Philosophy and Bible, Bryan College  
Debbie Brezina – author, on the National Advisory Board of the Churchill Archives Center, Cambridge University  
Kevin Bywater, Ph.D. – Director of Summit Oxford, Summit Ministries  
Chuck Edwards – Director of Bible Study Curriculum, Summit Ministries  
Rev. Carl Ellis – Dean of Intercultural Studies, Westminster Theological Seminary  
Norm Geisler, Ph.D. – President, Southern Evangelical Seminary  
Derwin Grey – former NFL football player and founder of One Heart At A Time Ministries  
Mike Haley – Youth and Gender Specialist, Focus on the Family  
Wendell Jones, Ph.D. – Professor of English, Bryan College  
Scott Klusendorf – author and speaker, President, Life Training Institute  
Greg Koukl – Adjunct Professor of Christian Apologetics, Biola University  
Terry Moffitt, Ph.D. – President, TCMI Group and Adjunct Professor of Law, Columbia International University  
Jeff Myers, Ph.D. – Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Bryan College and President, Myers Institute  
David Noebel, L.I.D. – President, Summit Ministries  
Gary Phillips, Th.D. – Professor Emeritus of Bible and Philosophy, Bryan College  
Frank Turek, Ph.D. – professional speaker and author of "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist"  
Ken Turner, Ph.D. – Associate Professor of Bible, Bryan College  
Charles Van Eaton, Ph.D. – Director of the Bryan Center for Critical Thought and Practice, Bryan College  
Ben Williams – Assistant Director of Worldview Teams, Bryan College  
Kurt Wise, Ph.D. – Associate Professor of Science and Director of the Center for Origins Research, Bryan College  
Todd Wood, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Science, Bryan College

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of the assumptions of contemporary approaches to issues in society. Includes the study of Naturalism, Transcendentalism, Theism, and Postmodernism. The class is team-taught by professors with expertise in the following areas: theology, philosophy, ethics, science, psychology, sociology, political science, history, economics, and law.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES** — After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate a factual foundation for their chosen worldview.
2. Understand several influential worldviews: Theism, Naturalism, Postmodernism, Secular Humanism, Islam, and New Age.
3. Develop basic skills of disciplined inquiry by comparing and contrasting the various worldviews.
4. Apply an understanding of worldviews to the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and biblical studies.

### MULTICULTURAL OBJECTIVES:

To be aware of considerations necessary to address societal, ethnic, and cultural needs.

**TEXTBOOK:**

David A. Noebel, "Understanding the Times: The Collision of Today's Competing Worldviews," 2nd revised edition (Manitou Springs, CO: Summit Press, 2006).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. ATTENDANCE—attendance at all class periods is required, and unexcused absences or tardies will reduce your grade.
2. CLASS NOTES—you must take clear, concise, well-organized notes on all lectures.
3. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM—at the end of the course, you must pass a multiple-choice exam covering the material given during the lectures (there will be an average of three to six questions from each lecture).
4. WORLDVIEW ESSAY—during the second week of the course, you must submit a two-page essay stating the main ideas of the worldview lectures given by Dr. David Noebel or John Stonestreet.
5. RESEARCH PAPER (three credit option only)—you must submit a research paper on one of two pre-determined topics within one month of the end of the course. This paper must include at least fifteen typed pages, with an additional title page and bibliography. Footnotes are required for all citations. (Your grade on this paper will be solely based on: first, adherence to the above instructions; second, use of proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.; and, third, how well your paper proves your chosen research statement.)

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS** — Participants must be able to do the following:

1. Read and study at the college level.
2. Effectively take exams.
3. Complete assignments and projects within a deadline.
4. Assimilate and report on information from lectures and readings.
5. Communicate effectively in writing.

**COURSE GRADING** — This course will be graded on the following scale:

93% - 100%	A
90% - 92%	A-
87% - 89%	B+
83% - 86%	B
80% - 82%	B-
77% - 79%	C+
73% - 76%	C
70% - 72%	C-
69% or below	No credit

In a case where a student registers and pays for the three-credit option yet fails to submit the required research paper by the deadline, he or she will receive a grade of 0% for that portion of the course requirements. In most cases, this will cause the student's overall score to drop below 70%, resulting in a failing grade.

**ACCREDITATION:**

Bryan College (Dayton, Tennessee) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate and baccalaureate degrees; the Tennessee State Board of Education for teacher education and licensure; the Association of Christian Schools International for teacher education and certification; and the Immigration and Naturalization Service for the education of foreign students.