SUMMIT MINISTRIES
UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES COLLEGE CREDIT SYLLABUS

[3 CREDIT HOURS SYLLABUS]

Philosophy 112

FACULTY OF RECORD: **John Stonestreet**, Executive Director of Summit Ministries, Professor of Biblical Studies at Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee and Eastern U.S. Director of Summit Ministries

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Kerby Anderson National Director of Probe Ministries International
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F. Carolyn Graglia served from 1954 through 1959 as Attorney, General Litigation Section, Civil Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.; Law Clerk, Judge Warren E. Burger, Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit; Special Counsel for Federal Housing Administration litiga¬tion, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.; Attorney, Covington & Burling, Washington, D. C.
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Dr. Jeff Myers Associate Professor of Communication Arts at Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee and founder and President of the Myers Institute
Nancy Pearcey Francis A. Schaeffer scholar at the World Journalism Institute, a Visiting Scholar at the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University, and a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute
Dr. Walt Russell Professor of New Testament at Talbot School of Theology
Dr. Leland Ryken Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English at Wheaton College

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of six contemporary philosophical worldviews (Christianity, Islam, Marxism, Humanism, New Age, and Postmodernism) in the following areas: theology, philosophy, ethics, science, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, law, and history.

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

1. **Articulate** a factual foundation for their chosen worldview
2. **Develop** basic skills of disciplined worldview inquiry
3. **Understand** the similarities and differences between the following worldviews: Christianity, Islam, Secular Humanism, Marxism-Leninism, Cosmic Humanism, and Postmodernism.
4. **Apply** an understanding of worldviews in the areas of the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and biblical studies

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. *Attendance:* Attendance at all class periods is required. Unexcused absences or tardies will result in a lower final grade.
2. *Class Notes:* Take notes on all lectures. Notes should be clear, concise, and well organized.
3. *Textbook reading assignments:* Each unit has corresponding textbook reading assignments. These assignments are found within the book *Understanding the Times.*
4. *Essay reading assignments:* Each unit has corresponding essay reading assignments.
5. *Video outlines:* Each unit has corresponding video presentations and outlines. Videos may be divided into multiple parts and average 20 to 40 minutes in length. Each presentation has a set of video outlines with fill-in-the-blank notes.
6. *Discussion:* Participate in all classroom discussions.
7. *Unit Essays (10):* Each unit (except Psychology and the Conclusion) has corresponding essay assignments. These essays will be 1–2 page written responses to problems addressed in letters from Doug, a friend who has just begun college.
8. *Worldview Analysis Paper (1):* At the end of unit five (Psychology) there will be a 4–6 page paper defining and comparing the Christian, Islamic, Secular Humanist, Marxist, New Age, and Post modernist worldviews.
9. *Unit Exams (10):* On the last day of the each unit, you must pass an exam covering material given during the lectures.
10. *Comprehensive Exam (1):* At the end of the Conclusion, there will be a comprehensive 100 question multiple-choice exam covering all the materials from the course. Questions for the comprehensive exam are found in the video, textbook, and essay discussion questions as well as the Fact Sheets.

TEXTBOOK:

Noebel, David A. *Understanding the Times: The Collision of Today's Competing Worldviews*. Rev. 2nd ed. Manitou Springs, CO: Summit Press, 2006. Original Pub., 1991.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (IN ORDER):

1. *Playing with Fire*
2. *Total Truth*
3. *Are All Religions One?*
4. *Critical Thinking*
5. *Living as if People Mattered*
6. *What is Darwinism?*
7. *Homosexuality, Fact or Fiction?*
8. *That Which is Unnatural*
9. *Doing Life Together*
10. *Domestic Tranquility*
11. *The Creative Arts*
12. *The Shifting Focus in the Abortion Debate*
13. *The Battle for Life*
14. *Heart, Soul, and Money*
15. *Principles of a Christian Environmental Ethic*
16. *Censoring the Past*

SUPPLEMENTAL VIDEOS (IN ORDER):

1. "Introduction to Worldviews"
2. "Loving God with Your Mind"
3. "Ambassadors for Christ"
4. "Existence and Nature of God"
5. "Marks of the Cults"
6. "Understanding Postmodernism"
7. "Evil and Suffering"
8. "Responding to Relativism"
9. "Bio-technology"
10. "Icons of Evolution"
11. "Mysteries of Life's Origins"
12. "Love, Sex, and Marriage"
13. "Entertainment"
14. "The Case against Abortion"
15. "Radical Environmentalism"
16. "The Dangerous Samaritan"
17. "Scriptural Reliability"
18. "The Historical Jesus"
19. "Worldview Witnessing"
20. "Secrets of the World Changers"

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

There are 2000 points possible for this course:

Assignments	Number	Points	Total Points	Points Earned
Dear Doug Letters	10	50	500	
Unit Tests	10	100	1000	
Worldview Paper	1	200	200	
Comprehensive Exam	1	300	300	

GRADING SCALE:

93–100% = A	87–89% = B+	80–82% = B-	73–76% = C	69% or below = NC
90–92% = A-	83–86% = B	77–79% = C+	70–72% = C-	

MULTICULTURAL OBJECTIVES:

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

ACCREDITATION:

Bryan College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the 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, the Immigration and Naturalization Service for the education of foreign students, and various public laws which have been passed by Congress for the education of veterans and the children of veterans, PL 16, PL 634, PL 361.