

“Contemporary Worldviews” Course Syllabus

Philosophy 111, Bible 111, or Social Sciences 111 (2 or 3 Credit Hours)

Faculty of Record: John Stonestreet, M.A.

Bryan College, Dayton, TN

Additional Faculty: *

Francis Beckwith, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Church-State Studies, Associate Director of the J. M. Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies, Baylor University

E. Calvin Beisner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Social Ethics, Knox Theological Seminary

Michael Bauman, Ph.D., Professor of Theology and Culture, Director of Christian Studies, Hillsdale College

Paul Boling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy and Bible, Bryan College

William Brown, Ph.D., President, Cedarville University

Kevin Bywater, Ph.D. candidate, Director of Curriculum and Research, Summit Ministries

Chuck Edwards, M.A., Director Bible-Study Curriculum, Summit Ministries

H. Wayne House, Th.D., J.D., Distinguished Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Faith Seminary, Adjunct Professor of Law at Trinity Law School, President of Oregon Theological Seminary

Terry Moffitt, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of School Law, Columbia International University

J.P. Moreland, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology

Jeff Myers, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Bryan College

Ronald Nash, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, Southern Baptist Seminary

David Noebel, Ll.D., President, Summit Ministries

Gary Phillips, Th.D., Professor Emeritus of Bible and Philosophy, Bryan College

John Stonestreet, M.A., Instructor of Bible and Philosophy, Bryan College

Buford Tackett, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religion and Society, New Geneva Theological Seminary

Kurt Wise, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Science, Director of the Center for Origins Research, Bryan College

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

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.

Textbook:

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

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, Marxism, Islam, and New Age.
3. Develop basic skills of disciplined inquiry by comparing and contrasting the various worldviews.
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 reduce your grade.
2. *Class Notes.* You must take notes on all lectures. Notes should be clear, concise, and well organized.
3. *Comprehensive Exam.* On the last day of the course you must pass a multiple choice exam covering material given during the lectures. There will be an average of three to six questions from each lecture.
4. *Two-page Worldview Essay.* Prior to the end of the course, submit a two-page essay stating the main ideas of the worldview lectures given by Dr. David Noebel or Mr. John Stonestreet.
5. *Research Paper* (3 credit hour option only). You must submit a research paper (on a subject approved by the course instructor) within one month of the end of seminar. This paper must include at least 15 typewritten pages with an additional title page and bibliography. Footnotes are required on all citations. Your grade will be based on: 1) how well you follow the instructions for the assignment; 2) your use of proper grammar, spelling and punctuation; and 3) how well your paper proves your research statement. The book *How to Write a Thesis* is the recommended text for assistance with style and organization.

Multicultural Objectives:

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

Essential Functions:

Participants must be able to do the following *at the college level*:

1. Read and study
2. Complete assignments, projects, and worksheets
3. Synthesize and report on information from readings
4. Communicate effectively in writing

Course Grading:

This course will be graded on the following scale:

96-100%	A	80-82%	B-
90-95%	A-	77-79%	C+
87-89%	B+	73-76%	C
83-86%	B	70-72%	C-
69% or below		No Credit	

In the case where a student registers and pays for the 3 credit hour option, yet fails to submit the required research paper by the deadline, he/she will receive a grade of zero for that portion of the course requirements. In most cases, this will cause his/her overall score to drop below 70%, resulting in a failing grade.

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.