



15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: RP100D/DN Developing a Biblical Worldview (blended*)
Credit: 1 Semester Hour
Semester: Fall 2020 (Cycle 1)
Time: 9:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M., Monday–Friday July 27–July 31, 2020
Location: East Ed. 118
Instructor: John Oglesby
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I. DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to equip the student “to live according to a biblical worldview.” The course starts with the theological foundations of a biblical worldview and applies the foundations to several aspects of life and society.

* This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

The basic goal of this course is not knowledge, but knowhow. “Knowledge is not knowhow until you understand the underlying principles at work and can fit them together into a structure larger than the sum of its parts. Knowhow is learning that enables you to *go do*.”¹ When you have knowhow, you are ready to explore the implications of the ideas for yourself. While you will never fully achieve knowhow, you can make progress toward it by growth in each of the following areas:

1. To identify clear and precise truths that constitute the biblical worldview (PLO’s: 1, 2, 3; Requirements: Reading Journals, Online Discussions, Final Essay).
2. To analyze specific aspects of life and society using a biblical worldview (PLO’s: 1, 2, 3, 4; Requirements: Reading Journals, Online Discussions, Final Essay).

III. TEXTBOOKS

- A. *Holy Bible*.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is

¹ Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press, 2014), 158. (The emphasis comes from the authors themselves.)

generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask me if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. Other Textbooks.

Little, Paul E., *Know Why You Believe*. Downers Grove, Intersociety Press, 2008 [ISBN: 978-8308-3422-8 — \$16.00].

Myers, Jeff, and David A. Noebel. *Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2015. [ISBN: 9780781413787 – \$36.99].

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments you complete for this course will be used to calculate your final grade, but their primary purpose is to help you develop knowhow—a skill that is essential to your spiritual development. With it, you will be able to extract truth from God’s word and infuse it into your life; without it, you never will. Of course, knowhow doesn’t just happen; you must cultivate it. So take out your spade, and let’s get started.

A. Types of Assignments

Reading Journals (400 points). Knowhow cannot develop without facts. Therefore, one of your primary responsibilities is to gain familiarity with the basic principles of the biblical worldview by reading Paul Little’s book *Know Why You Believe*. You will read the assigned chapters each week (as shown in the Proposed Course Schedule) and write a one or two-page journal showing your thoughts about the selection. Your journal should note how the material has changed your understanding of the issue, list any questions it has raised, and summarize any insights it has prompted. You will post your journal in Canvas. I will grade each of these journals according to the following scale:

0 points Incomplete or Late Reading. If you do not complete all of the assigned reading on time, you receive no credit for it at all.

75 points Nonreflective Reading. If your journal merely reports or describes the content of a reading, but does not question or interact with it, your journal will receive a C grade (49 points).

85 points Reflective Reading. If, however, your journal shows evidence that you are attempting to learn the reading, it will receive a B grade (56 points). In this case, your journal goes beyond the mere reporting of information and shows your attempt to analyze and understand the ideas developed in the passage read.

100 points Critically Reflective Reading. In critically reflective reading, you go even further; you attempt to integrate the contribution of the assigned material into your own understanding and belief system. In your journal, you evaluate your own ideas, assumptions, or values in light of the reading. If you submit such a journal, it will receive an A grade (67 points).

Class Participation (100 points) All students should attend class. Online students are always welcome and encouraged to join on campus.

Every class will contain a Key Lecture Question (KLQ) which is to be answered (200+ words) in Canvas within the discussions module. It is expected that everyone interacts with each other. The goal of the KLQ's are to bring students together to discuss further the lessons taught in class. These questions will only be identified during the lecture, so please watch the class videos to identify the KLQ. These will be discussed in week 4 of the cycle, and should be completed by the end of week 5. **All KLQ's will be due by Friday of week 5. KLQ's will not be accepted late.**

Online Discussion (300 points). Knowhow benefits from interaction with others; therefore, each week, you will participate in online discussion in Canvas. When you post your journal, you will read the journal of at least one other student and comment on it. In addition, one or more discussion questions will be posted in Canvas. You will respond to these questions as well as interact with the response of other students in the course.

Final Essay (300 points). Knowhow only develops when you engage your mind. To demonstrate that you have done that, you will post a 5-page essay in Canvas, an essay that gives your assessment of David Noebel's *Understanding the Times*. In it, you will briefly summarize the content of the book, identify what you believe to be its greatest strengths and weaknesses, and state its impact on your worldview. Please follow the rubric as it's found in Canvas.

B. Specific Assignments

Week 1. No assignments due.

Week 2. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 1–3. 75 points
Online discussion. 75 points

Week 3. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 4–6 75 points
Online discussion 75 points

Week 4. Week of Lectures – KLQ's 100 points (20 each)
Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 7–9 75 points

Week 5. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 10–12 75 points
Online discussion 75 points

Week 6. Final Essay 300 points

A.. Grading

- 1. Journals 400 points
- 2. Online Discussions 300 points
- 3. Final Essay 300 points
- Total 1000 points

B.. Calculating the Final Grade

930–1000 points	A	730–769 points	C
900–929 points	A-	700–729 points	C-
870–899 points	B+	670–699 points	D+
800–829 points	B-	630–669 points	D
770–799 points	C+	0–559 points	F

C. Academic Issues and Support

- 1. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person’s ideas and presenting them as your own.
- 2. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (with footnotes).
- 3. **Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- 4. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.