

RP601 BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY AND WORLDVIEW

Course: RP601E (EN) Biblical Philosophy and Worldview (Blended)
Credit: 3 Semester Hrs.
Semester: Spring 2023 Cycle 5
Dates: March 13 – May 5, 2023
Time: Wednesdays 6:00 -9:00 pm
Location: CABRE 100
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.
Department Chair and Professor of Bible and Theology
Director of the Ph.D. in Bible and Theology Program

DESCRIPTION

This course examines the biblical philosophy and worldview focusing on the four components of epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and socio-political thought. Students will learn how to discover the biblical worldview through doing exegesis and biblical theology. Students will learn the biblical worldview of history, science, the arts, ethics, sex and marriage, law, and government. Students will critique religious and secular worldviews by the Bible.

**This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person. Online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

OBJECTIVES**General competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Develop the biblical worldview based on summarizing the major doctrines of the faith
PLOs 1, 2, 3 A4, 5, 6, 8, 9
2. Define and explain worldview and why it is important.
PLOs 1, 2, 3 A 1, 2, 3, 8, 9
3. Critique non-biblical worldviews from the perspective of the biblical worldview
PLOs 1, 2, 3 A7, 8, 9

Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Develop the biblical worldview by discussing the word of God
PLOs 1, 2, 3 A 1, 2, 8

2. Demonstrate an ability to think critically about philosophy and worldview
PLOs 1, 2, 3 A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

3. Be able to identify, explain, and compare basic components of worldview through research and writing.
PLOs 1, 2, 3 A 4, 6, 7

REQUIRED MATERIALS

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 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 the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

TEXTBOOKS

Huffman, Douglas. *Christian Contours: How a Biblical Worldview Shapes the Mind and Heart*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2011.
ISBN: 978-0-8254-3673-4 Cost: \$22.83

MacArthur, John. *Think Biblically: Recovering a Christian Worldview*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003. ISBN: 978-1-4335-0950-4 Cost: \$26.99

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1 – Read *Christian Contours* and answer questions 1-10 in Discussions. Interact with at least two other students on your answers to the questions (200 points).

Assignment #2 - Write a research paper of 10-12 double spaced pages explaining the Biblical Worldview. This paper should explain the four components of worldview from the Bible:

Biblical Epistemology: What is truth? How do I know? How do I know that I know?

Theology Proper: How do you know that God exists? What is God like?

Biblical Anthropology: What is the origin of man, woman and marriage? What is sin?

Christology/Soteriology: Who is Jesus Christ? What is the gospel?

Biblical Ethics: How should Christians live in the world?

Biblical Social/Political View: How should Christians relate to the government?

Eschatology: What does the Bible reveal about the future?

Purpose in Life: What is your purpose in life as a Christian?

Each paper must follow the Turabian style guide with footnotes (200 points)

Assignment #3: Read the book *Think Biblically* and answer questions 11-20 in Discussions in Canvas. Interact with two other students on the answers to the questions (200 points).

Assignment #4: Write a research paper of 10-12 double spaced pages following Turabian style (footnotes and bibliography) on one of the following topics listed below. The paper must cite at least 6-10 sources in the bibliography. (200 points)

A Biblical View of Science

A Biblical View of Origins

A Biblical View of Sex and Marriage

A Biblical View of Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage

A Biblical View of Abortion

A Biblical View of Euthanasia

A Biblical View of Racism

A Biblical View of War

A Biblical View of Music and the Arts

A Biblical View of the Environment

A Biblical View of Biomedical Ethics

A Biblical View of Social Justice

A Biblical View of Manhood and Womanhood

A Biblical View of Economics and Business

A Biblical View of Sports

A Biblical View of Psychology

Each research paper must follow the Turabian style guide (Calvary 2019 edition).

Assignment #5: Answer Weekly Lecture Questions in Discussions: Answer the weekly lecture question in Discussions. Interact with at least one other student each week. (100 points)

Assignment #6: Attendance and Attendance Reports: Attend class in person and/or participate in Microsoft Teams when the class meets once a week. Post your weekly attendance (see Attendance Report in Announcements in Canvas) and list 3 things you learned from the lecture each week (100 points)

TOTAL POINTS AND GRADE

960-1000	A
940-959	A-
920-939	B+
880-919	B
860-879	B-
840-859	C+
800-839	C
780-799	C-
0-779	F

SCHEDULE

Week One	Paul and the Greek Philosophers in Athens (Acts 17) What is a Worldview? What is the Biblical Worldview? How do you Discover the Biblical Worldview? – How to Do Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology
Week Two	Biblical Epistemology How do we Know? General and Special Revelation Wisdom from the Wisdom Books (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes)
Week Three	Bible and Science Creation vs. Evolution Young Earth Creationism vs. Old Earth Creationism Historical Adam Debate Flood Geology vs. Uniformitarianism
Week Four	Introduction to the Worldview of Francis Schaeffer Greek Philosophy Idealism (Socrates and Plato) Realism (Aristotle) Western Worldview: How Should We Then Live? Roman Age Middle Ages The Renaissance The Reformation The Revolutionary Age The Scientific Age

Week Five	Schaeffer: <i>How Should We Then Live?</i> The Age of Non-Reason Existentialism (Kierkegaard) NeoOrthodoxy (Barth and Bultmann) Secular Humanism Postmodernism Eastern Mysticism
Week Six	Biblical Ethics Marriage and Family Issues Divorce and Remarriage Egalitarianism vs. Complementarianism Biblical Critique of Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriage Gender Issues
Week Seven	Schaeffer - <i>Whatever Happened to the Human Race?</i> Abortion, Infanticide and Euthanasia Biblical View of Social Justice – Slavery and Civil Rights Movement Biblical View of Government and Politics Democracy vs. Communism (Marxist Leninism)
Week Eight	Dispensationalism: God’s Plan for the Ages Biblical Covenants and God’s Program for Israel Views on The Kingdom of God Critique of Covenant Theology and Progressive Covenantalism Premillennialism vs. Amillennialism

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may requires support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University 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.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Do not plagiarize. 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.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 edition.

EXPECTATIONS OF ONLINE STUDENTS

Attend class in Microsoft Teams. If you are unable to attend class in Microsoft Teams you must notify the professor before class.

Watch the video lecture in Canvas within one week of the lecture (if not in Microsoft Teams on class day).

Answer and post your questions about the lecture in Questions about the Lecture under Announcements in Canvas.

Be respectful of the professor and all students in the Discussion Forum in Canvas.

Turn all work in on time. Late work will have points deducted (-5 points per day).

EXPECTATIONS OF RESIDENT STUDENTS

Attend class. My class attendance policy: Any student who misses more than one class will experience a grade reduction. Attendance for class will be taken.

Be on time for class. Coming in late interrupts the class and is disruptive. Two tardies equals one absence.

Listen to the lecture and write down your questions. When I call for questions after finishing a section of the lecture you can ask your questions then.

Be courteous and respectful in class to the professor and all students. A lack of respect in class will lead to a grade reduction.

Please eat your evening meal before class or during one of the class breaks. Thank you for not eating during the class lecture/discussion time.

Turn all work in on time. Late work will have points deducted (-5 points per day).