

RP601 BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY AND WORLDVIEW

Course: RP601 Biblical Philosophy and Worldview (Blended)
Credit: 3 credits
Semester: Spring 2025 Session 2
Dates: March 17 – May 9, 2025
Time: Thursdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time
Location: CABRE 101 and Microsoft Teams
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.
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COURSE 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 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.*

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

1. Develop the biblical worldview based on a study of the Bible

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

Dockery, David and Trevin Wax, eds. *Christian Worldview Handbook*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-5359-6895-9 Cost: \$16.89 on Amazon

McQuilkin, Robertson and Paul Copan. *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics: Walking in the Way of Wisdom*. Third edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8308-2818-0 Cost: \$39.49 on Amazon

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1 – Read *Christian Worldview Handbook* 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 14-16 double spaced pages explaining the Biblical Worldview. This major research paper must use Turabian style format. This paper should have these major sections (see below). (200 points)

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: What is the purpose of the government? 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?

Assignment #3: Read the book *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics* 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

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 Intro to Greek Philosophy and Greek Philosophers Idealism (Socrates and Plato) Realism (Aristotle) Schaeffer's book: <i>How Should We Then Live?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) Neo-Orthodoxy (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 and Koop - <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 God’s Program for Israel A Biblical Case for Premillennialism

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require 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 source. This also includes taking another person’s ideas or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he or she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

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).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carson, D.A. *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

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Phillips, W. Gary, William Brown, and John Stonestreet. *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*. Sheffield Publishing Company, 2008.

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Schaeffer, Francis and C. Everett Koop. *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?* Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1979.

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Wells, David F. *God in the Wasteland: The Reality of Truth in a World of Fading Dreams*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

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