



TRUTH IN LOVE BIBLICAL
TRAINING CENTER

CERTIFIED BIBLICAL COUNSELOR PROGRAM

MODULE BC04

WORLDVIEWS: WHAT THEY ARE; WHY THEY
MATTER

SYLLABUS



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PO Box 516, Tustin, CA 92781-0516
Truth in Love Biblical Counseling & Training Center Edition, 2022
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WORLDVIEWS: WHAT THEY ARE; WHY THEY MATTER *SYLLABUS*

Course Description

- This course examines the six most prominent worldviews influencing the world today (Christianity, Islam, Secularism, Marxism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism) and demonstrates how their influence manifests in the key academic disciplines operating in American society today (Theology, Philosophy, Ethics, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and History).
- The ten sessions seek to equip students to be conversant about competing worldviews and develop students' critical thinking when examining and discussing competing worldviews.
- By helping students master the world of ideas, they will be significantly less likely to be taken captive by false philosophies (Colossians 2:8) and better able to help those they counsel and disciple to have a more biblical worldview.
- Underlying emphasis is on developing strategies and applying Scriptural principles to graciously defend the Christian faith and worldview as the best one to hold.

Course Objectives

- To equip the student to be familiar with and conversant about the prominent worldviews influencing our society today.
- To equip the students to equip others to be more discerning about the worldview influences around them as well as their own worldview.
- To introduce the student to effective ways to be engaging in discussion of worldviews and faith.
- To equip the student to identify obstacles to developing a Christian worldview and effective methods for overcoming those obstacles.

- To equip the student to graciously expose the worldviews of those we counsel and disciple and help them see Christianity as the better option.
- To provide the student with the opportunity to practice dialoguing with others over complex or emotionally-charged matters.
- To model a method of evaluating the progress of counselees and the effectiveness of the counseling relationship.
- To demonstrate how a biblical worldview positively impacts the individual, the family, the church, the community, and the nation.

Required Reading

Myers, Jeff and Noebel, David. *Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews (Volume 2)*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2015.

Understanding the Times is a systematic way to understand the ideas that rule our world. While the material is expansive, the engaging, easy-to-understand writing style invites you to discover the truths of God – and our world.

Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, 2009. 2019.

In a culture increasingly indifferent or even hostile to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority.

In *Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition*, Gregory Koukl demonstrates how to artfully regain control of conversations, keeping them moving forward in constructive ways through thoughtful diplomacy.

Recommended Reading (All books listed here are Honors reading)

Beckwith, Francis J, Craig, William Lane and Moreland, J.P., editors. *To Everyone an Answer: A Case for the Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

In a society fascinated by spirituality but committed to religious pluralism, the Christian worldview faces sophisticated and aggressive opposition. A prior commitment to diversity, with its requisite openness and relativistic outlook, has meant for skeptics, critics and even many Christians that whatever Christianity is, it cannot be exclusively true or salvific. Editors Francis J. Beckwith, William Lane Craig and J. P. Moreland have gathered together in this book essays covering all major aspects of apologetics.

Craig, William Lane and Gora, Joseph E. *A Reasonable Response: Answers to Tough Questions on God, Christianity, and the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 2013.

Utilizing real questions submitted to his popular website ReasonableFaith.org, Dr. Craig models well-reasoned, skillful, and biblically informed interactions with his inquirers. *A Reasonable Response* goes beyond merely talking about apologetics; it shows it in action. With co-writer Joseph E. Gorra, this book also offers advice about envisioning and practicing the ministry of answering people's questions through the local church, workplace, and online environments.

Craig, William Lane. *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010.

Foreword by Lee Stroebel, this one-stop, how-to-defend-your-faith manual will equip Christians to advance faith conversations deliberately, applying straightforward, cool-headed arguments. As a result, they will discover not just what they believe but why they believe—and how being on guard with the truth has the power to change lives forever.

Nash, Ronald H. *Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in a World of Ideas*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.

In this book, Ronald Nash outlines the Christian way of looking at God, self, and the world. He holds that worldview up against the tests of reason, logic, and experience, particularly discussing the problems of evil and the alleged "nonsense" of the historic Christian doctrines and of Jesus' incarnation and resurrection. He finds the Christian worldview sound and

urges Christians to equip themselves intellectually to defend the faith on that battlefield.

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog* (Sixth Edition) Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.

For more than forty years, *The Universe Next Door* has set the standard for a clear, readable introduction to worldviews. Using his widely influential model of eight basic worldview questions, James Sire examines prominent worldviews that have shaped the Western world.

Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels.* Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2013.

Written by an L. A. County homicide detective and former atheist, *Cold-Case Christianity* examines the claims of the New Testament using the skills and strategies of a hard-to-convince criminal investigator.

Wilkens, Steven and Sanford, Mark L. *Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories That Shape Our Lives.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009

Why do we buy what we buy, vote the way we vote, eat what we eat and say what we say? Why do we have the friends we have, and work and play as we do? It's our choice? Yes, but there are forces, often unseen, that shape every decision we make and every action we take. These hidden, life-shaping values and ideas are not promoted through organized religions or rival philosophies but fostered by cultural habits, lifestyles and the institutional structures of society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Summary of Requirements

- Attend lectures and participate in class discussions.
- Reading synopses
- Course assessment paper

Course Assessment Paper (10%)

A one- to two-page personal assessment of what you learned during the module and what benefit, if any, you see the module being.

Weekly Discussion Activities (70%)

Each class session is an **interactive discussion**, so being prepared to interact with the professor and with other students during class will be essential to the learning process.

Reading Synopses (20%)

A one- to two-page synopsis of each of the two books on the Required Reading list, with a final personal assessment of each work as the conclusion to each paper.

Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted via Google Docs with an invitation to comment for the professor and the TA, if there is one. For those who find writing and typing to be over-burdensome, the professor may grant permission to submit assignments in video format instead of Google Docs. Extensions must be pre-approved prior to the relevant due date.

Honors

Honors Reading: Read any Recommended Reading list item marked **OR**. Submit a three- to five-page summary/analyses of the work.

Honors Project: Submit an original research paper on any approved topic. Topic must be taken from the lectures, the required reading, or the recommended reading.

Final Course-Grade Meanings

A with Honors = You far exceeded expectations and completed an Honors Project or Reading.

A = There were dimensions to your work that went above the requirements.

B = At TILBCC, a "B" means that you successfully fulfilled the requirements.

C = You missed some important facets of the material or the assignment.

Contact Information

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COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1

- ✓ Introduction and Syllabus
- ✓ Understanding Worldviews – Part 1

Session 2: Understanding Worldviews – Part 2

- ✓ Islam
- ✓ Marxism
- ✓ Secularism

Session 3: Understanding Worldviews – Part 3

- ✓ New Spirituality

Session Four: Understanding Worldviews – Part 4

- ✓ Postmodernism
- ✓ New Atheism
- ✓ Secularism

Session Five: Understanding Worldviews – Part 5

- ✓ Biology
- ✓ Psychology

Session Six: Understanding Worldviews – Part 6

- ✓ Sociology
- ✓ Sphere Sovereignty

Session Seven: Understanding Worldviews – Part 7

- ✓ Law & Politics

Session Eight: Understanding Worldviews – Part 8

- ✓ Labor & Economics

Session Nine: Understanding Worldviews – Part 9

- ✓ History

Session Ten: Understanding Worldviews – Part 10

- ✓ Wrapping Up

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

SESSION	READING	DUE
* PRIOR TO CLASS SESSION 1	UTT, thru Chapter 2 Koukl, thru Chapter 2	SESSION 1
	UTT, thru Chapter 5 Koukl, thru Chapter 5	SESSION 2
	UTT, thru Chapter 7 Koukl, thru Chapter 8	SESSION 3
	UTT, thru Chapter 10 Koukl, thru Chapter 9	SESSION 4
	UTT, thru Chapter 12 Koukl, thru Chapter 12	SESSION 5
	UTT, thru Chapter 14 Koukl, thru Chapter 14	SESSION 6
	UTT, thru Chapter 15 Koukl, thru Chapter 16	SESSION 7
	UTT, thru Chapter 16 Koukl, thru Chapter 17	SESSION 8
	UTT, thru Chapter 17 Koukl, thru Chapter 18	SESSION 9
	UTT, thru Chapter 18 Koukl, thru Chapter 19	SESSION 10
SESSION 10		ALL READING COMPLETED
	All assignments due	1 Week After Last Class

* This reading needs to be completed **prior to** the first session.

Be prepared to work reading assignment information into the class discussion during the next week's Session following the week listed.

UTT = *Understanding the Times* **Koukl** = *Tactics*

Assigned reading can be done at your own pace but be prepared to apply reading assignment information into the class discussion during the next week's Session.

Keep in mind that each class session is an **interactive discussion**, so being prepared to interact with the professor and with other students during class will be essential to the learning process.