

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

[3 CREDIT HOURS SYLLABUS]

PHILOSOPHY 112

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration of worldview answers to contemporary questions of origins, revelation, epistemology, applied ethics, and interdisciplinary topics. (This course is offered for credit only through participation in the Understanding the Times curriculum available through Summit Ministries of Manitou Springs, Colorado. Two credit hours are earned for successful completion of the 90-day syllabus and three credits for the 180-day syllabus.)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is a survey of six contemporary philosophical worldviews (Christianity, Islam, Marxism, Secularism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism) in the following areas: theology, philosophy, ethics, science, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, law, and history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. **Articulate** a factual foundation for their chosen worldview
2. **Develop** basic skills of disciplined worldview inquiry
3. **Understand** the similarities and differences between the following worldviews: Christianity, Islam, Marxism, Secularism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism.
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 result in a lower final grade.
2. **Textbook readings:** Each unit has corresponding textbook reading assignments. These assignments are found within the book *Understanding the Times*.
3. **Primary source readings and videos:** Each unit has corresponding essay reading assignments and/or videos.
4. **Classroom discussion:** Participate in all classroom discussions.
5. **Writing assignments:** Each unit has corresponding writing assignments. These essays will be 1–2 page written responses to questions relating to each unit.
6. **Pop quizzes:** Be prepared for quizzes following any supplemental reading or video assignment.
7. **Unit tests:** On the last day of the each unit, you must pass an exam covering material discussed in each unit.

TEXTBOOK:

Noebel, David A. and Jeff Myers. *Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews*. 3rd ed. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook Publishing, 2015.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS (IN ORDER):

1. Selection from *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey
2. Mark 1–9
3. Genesis 1–3
4. Sura 5:1–53
5. Sura 5:54–120
6. Sura 3:187–200
7. Sura 4:64–104
8. Selections from *Humanist Manifesto I*
9. Selections from *Humanist Manifesto II*

10. Selections from *Communist Manifesto*
11. Bhagavad Gita, chapters 1–2
12. Bhagavad Gita, chapters 3–5
13. Bhagavad Gita, chapters 6–9
14. “The Parable of the Madman” by Friedrich Nietzsche
15. “A Primer on Perspectivalism” by John Frame
16. “What Is Knowledge” by J.P. Moreland
17. Matthew 5–7
18. Exodus 20
19. Ephesians 5
20. Selection from *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell
21. Selections from *On the Origin of the Species* by Charles Darwin
22. Selection from *Pollution and the Death of Man* by Francis Schaeffer
23. “Psychology in Recovery” by Paul Vitz
24. U.S. Census Burrow data report
25. Selection from *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
26. Selections from *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat

SUPPLEMENTAL VIDEOS (IN ORDER):

1. “Can’t We All Just Get Along?”
2. Oprah Winfrey interviews
3. “Loving God with Your Mind”
4. Ryan Anderson video clip
5. Sarah Palin video clip
6. Jennifer Marshall interview
7. “Historical Jesus”

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

There are 1,800 points possible for this course:

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Unit Tests	18	100	1,800	

GRADING SCALE:

93–100% = A	87–89% = B+	80–82% = B–	73–76% = C	69% or below = NC
90–92% = A–	83–86% = B	77–79% = C+	70–72% = C–	

MULTICULTURAL OBJECTIVES:

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

TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT:

Students will be expected to exhibit skills in electronic communication, word processing, document development, internet use, and electronic library research and will receive access to training through the Academic Support Center, located in the Bryan College Library.

HONOR CODE & PLAGIARISM:

HONOR CODE: All students are to abide by the Bryan College honor code included in your Student Handbook or College Catalog. All assignments, quizzes and exams will be so pledged.

PLAGIARISM & CHEATING: Given the Honor Code above, students are expected to submit their own work. All cheating is absolutely prohibited. Students caught cheating will be reported to the Academic Vice President, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal. The *Chicago Manual of Style* (2003) states “with all reuse of others’ materials, it is important to identify the original as the source” (p. 136). Even when you use other people’s

thoughts or concepts without crediting them as the source you have stolen their intellectual work. It is not plagiarism to quote material from a book, article, or website as long as the author or source of the material is properly cited. Similarly, it is not plagiarism to copy a chart or a diagram from such a source, as long as the source is clearly credited. It is plagiarism to copy verbatim or closely paraphrase a chart or illustration, or material from any book, article, or website without clearly identifying the source from which it was obtained.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

All requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcome from both students and parents. The ADA Coordinator is Bethany Smith, located at the main campus in Dayton. She can be reached at bsmith6390@bryan.edu or (423) 775.7173. Accommodations are to be requested within the first ten days of classes and will not be considered after, unless a diagnosis is given after that date. Accommodations must be requested per semester.

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.