



RS 503 – The Christian Worldview I
Course Syllabus: Fall 2021
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“SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE TAKES YOU CAPTIVE
BY PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEPTION
ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF MEN...”

COLOSSIANS 2.8

Syl'la*bus, *n*

A summary or outline containing the main points, especially in a course of study

THE PURPOSE OF WORLD VIEW AT NEW GENEVA SEMINARY:

In the positive:

To discover **TRUTH**.

To ask the big questions and wrestle with the answers. Does God exist?

What is reality? Why is there evil? Who am I? Who are my people?

What is the meaning of life? How do we know what we know?

In the negative:

To discover **LIES**.

We far too often succumb to the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are inconsistent, hypocritical, and syncretistic. We do not wrestle with the truth enough to know the lies we believe. We are tossed about by every wind.

Approach:

We will systematically compare and contrast the Christian World view with the competing World Views most influencing the 21st century American culture, the church, and we as individuals. Lessons will be organized, sequential, and relevant; connected to other disciplines and daily life; presented in an entertaining and relational manner. Class discussion of and interaction with the material will be open, honest, and respectful; challenging, rigorous, and enjoyable. Assignments will be conventional/traditional and/or creative/innovative; flexible; adjusted to your specific needs; expectations will be high and quality work expected.

Assignments:

The baseline “assignment” is that you are present and engaged during both direct instruction and discussion of the class material. You can expect both announced and unannounced Quizzes along with a Mid-Term and Final Exam. There will be several short reports on various articles and videos. You will read a primary source book of your choice from an opposing World View and give a short presentation. You will create your own 7-minute video on a topic of your choice.

Grading as follows:

- Exams 40%;
- Quizzes 10%;
- Reports 10%;
- Presentation 20%;
- Video 20%;

Textbook:

Jeff Myers and David A. Noebel, *Understanding the Times* (David C. Cook, 2015), ISBN-13: 9781434709585. (You may be interested in exploring the digital version with accompanying study guides and videos, but this is not a requirement.)

Time:

We will meet for 13 weeks, plus an additional meeting for the Final Exam. Classes will be in two blocks of 50 minutes each, with a 10-minute break. We will begin and end class promptly, and I will be available after class for further discussion and questions. There will be an average of four hours of outside study per week. The textbook will require two hours and the assignments and additional reading two hours.

Expectations:

As a Seminary student you will be expected to be prepared, present, and engaged in class. Assignments should be completed on time and in full, with an expectation of excellence. Your preparation for this class should, and will, reflect your ability to be prepared for excellence in the Pulpit, the Session, and in your home.

Nothing worthwhile is easy. Your journey through Seminary and the many struggles you face will in part prepare you for your ministry. Said ministry will bring forth struggles you have not yet imagined. If this is news to you, seek council on the subject immediately.

There are few expectations for those auditing the class beyond typical classroom behaviors.

THE BOMB:

As a sign of respect to the instructor, your classmates, and the learning process, phones will be stored away during class and laptops will not have internet browsers open. Laptops should only be used for note taking. Phones and laptops are fantastic tools and have many uses, but they have a significant downside, particularly in the social interactions we hope to create in class. You may think you can play chess, read your email, or check the score of the game without being distracted, but this is not true. I want everyone to be fully present and engaged as a community. If you think this expectation is a bit hyperbolic, I recommend you explore the issue. I have stories. Books have been written. We will go “old school.”

Accountability:

Despite the high expectations, I do not want to “Lord over you” in the least; I don’t even want to “look over your” shoulder. You are studying to minister to God’s people. It will be assumed that you have read the material and done the work in good faith without cutting corners and simply trying to “pass.” If it seems as though such an effort is not forthcoming, I will be required, reluctantly, to check in on you. At the end of the day, I will trust you to prepare yourself.

We all recognize that life can and does come at us sideways and in waves. Despite said high expectations, timelines can be shifted, and arrangements made in unusual circumstances. If you find yourself in a such a situation due to the “Catastrophe of Life” we can figure it out together.

Final word:

I love people and I love teaching. I am excited to be teaching in the same room in which I was a student! We are going to work hard and have fun together.

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