

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW AND SCHOLARSHIP

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Introduction to Christian Worldview and Scholarship

Course Description: This course will introduce students to university education and specifically scholarship from a Christian perspective. It will first briefly trace the Biblical story and reflect on a Biblical worldview. Then the Western cultural story and worldview will be sketched. Finally the role and purpose of university education and the nature of Christian scholarship as one participates in both the Western and the Christian traditions will be explored.

Course Goals

1. To trace the Western story and worldview with a view to how it has shaped scholarship.
2. To examine the Biblical story and worldview as the normative context for our academic calling.
3. To probe the role of the Christian university and the nature of Christian scholarship as rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ and our responsibility to seek first the kingdom of God.
4. To reflect on how we can carry out Christian scholarship while participating in the Western academic tradition.

Course Texts:

Michael Goheen and Craig Bartholomew, *Living at the Crossroads: An Introduction to Christian Worldview* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

Lesslie Newbigin, *A Walk Through the Bible* (Vancouver: Regent College Press, 1999)

Donald Opitz and Derek Melleby, *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007)

Michael Goheen and Craig Bartholomew, *The Story-Line of the Bible* (Found online at: http://www.biblicaltheology.ca/blue_files/The%20Story-Line%20of%20the%20Bible.pdf)

Sidney Greidanus, The Use of the Bible in Christian Scholarship, *Christian Scholars Review*, 11, 2 (1982)

Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to attend all classes. The mark for attendance and participation is based on regular attendance, class demeanour and otherwise taking responsibility for the course.
2. Mid-term exam. This will be an essay exam covering material up to mid-term. Study questions will be handed out.
3. Final exam. This will be a comprehensive essay exam. Study questions will be handed out.

Course Evaluation

Attendance and Participation:	20%
Mid-term Exam:	35%
Final Exam:	45%

Course Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Biblical Story and Worldview
 - a. Tracing the Biblical Story
 - b. Articulating the Biblical Worldview
- III. Western Story and Worldview
 - a. Tracing the Western Story
 - b. Articulating the Western Worldview
 - c. The University and Scholarship in the Western Tradition
- IV. Christian University Education
 - a. Living in Two Stories
 - b. The Christian University
 - c. Christian Scholarship

Schedule

Week 1: Lecture Topic: Introduction to Course

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*, chapter 1

Week 2: Lecture Topic: Which Story Will Shape Your University Education?

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*, chapter 2

Week 3: Lecture Topic: The Biblical Story

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Story Line of the Bible* OR Newbigin, *A Walk Through the Bible*

Week 4: Lecture Topic: The Biblical Worldview

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*, chapter 3

Week 5: Lecture Topic: The Biblical Worldview

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*, chapter 4

Week 6: Lecture Topic: The Western Story

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*, chapter 5

Week 7: Lecture Topic: The Western Story

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*: chapter 6

Week 8: Lecture Topic: The Western Story

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*: chapter 7

Week 9: Lecture Topic: Living in Two Stories

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*: chapter 8

Week 10: Lecture Topic: Living in Two Stories

Reading: Goheen/Bartholomew: *Living at the Crossroads*: chapter 9

Week 11: Lecture Topic: A Christian University Education

Reading: Opitz/Melleby: *The Outrageous Idea*, chapters 1-4

Week 12: Lecture Topic Christian Scholarship

Reading: Opitz/Melleby: *The Outrageous Idea*, chapters 5-8; Greidanus: *The Bible and Scholarship*

