

COURSE SYLLABUS

CA207: Ten Reasons to Believe in Christ Rather Than Religion

An Our Daily Bread Ministries *Day of Discovery* Study

Course Description

We live in an extremely religious world—a world that can be very confusing, even bewildering. Is it enough to say that all beliefs are of equal value as long as you are sincere? Is there spiritual security in being a “religious” person? Or, is there a better way . . . a way that offers certainty and hope? In this study, you will have the opportunity to consider *Ten Reasons to Believe in Christ Rather Than Religion*.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith
- To provide scholarly and historical evidence for the validity of Christianity
- To encourage logical thinking in evaluating the authenticity of the teachings of Jesus and of the Bible

Accessibility

If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

Academic Honesty

At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at registrar@cugn.org or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Video-based teaching**
If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Multisensory learning**
For students who wish to use a medium other than video, we provide the option of reading the lesson from a transcript of the teaching video (found in the Class Time section). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.
- **Readings and other media**
Students should have a copy of the Bible available in order to read the sections of the Bible assigned in each lesson. In addition, Scripture passages are linked to online Bible tools for convenience. These online resources also provide an opportunity for students for whom English is a second language to read the Bible passages in one of numerous international translations available.

For all other required reading assignments, CUGN provides the texts for this course in a downloadable Adobe® PDF format.

Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from

interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

Response Time

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors; students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

Personal Reflection Journal

Students will be asked to record their thoughts in a Personal Reflection Journal. These entries can be viewed only by the student and by the site administrator, and are not graded.

Lesson Objectives

At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

Lesson 1: Christ is Someone to Know and Trust

- Justify the uniqueness of the person of Christ as a religious leader
- Explain the concept that true Christianity is based relationship with God through Jesus
- Give biblical support for the truth that Jesus' life, death and resurrection offered forgiveness and life that no other religion provides
- Illustrate, by Jesus' stories, miracles, and acts of compassion, His love for mankind

Lesson 2: Religion is Something to Believe and Do

- Provide a biblical definition for relationship with Jesus Christ
- Describe the value of relationship with Jesus as opposed to religious experience or practice
- Explain, using Bible references, the definition of and significance of eternal life

Lesson 3: Religion Doesn't Change Hearts

- Explain why religious credentials and ceremony cannot change the heart
- Compare and contrast the practice of religion and relationship with Christ
- Discuss the Bible's teaching on transformed life

Lesson 4: Religion Makes Much of Little

- Explain the relationship of moral principles to Christianity
- Discuss the two foci of relationship in the life of the Christian and the spiritual significance of each
- Explain the practical difference between focusing on attitudes and relationships instead of on religious rules and correct behavior

Lesson 5: Religion Makes it Easy to Deceive Ourselves

- Articulate the basic steps to coming to a redemptive relationship with Jesus
- Delineate and describe the benefits that accrue to the person who becomes a true disciple of Jesus

Lesson 6: Religion Makes Hypocrites of Us

- Define and illustrate the spiritual gift of discernment in knowing good from evil
- Explain how Christianity addresses the basic problems of the fallen nature
- Discuss the eternal nature of Christianity's redemptive plan

Lesson 7: Religion Makes a Hard Life Harder

- Explain the difference between religionists and Christians
- Discuss the weakness of religious systems in helping followers achieve the standards of behavior required

Lesson 8: Religion Offers the Approval of Men Rather Than God

- Define and describe the group of people Jesus most often criticized
- Identify, using Bible references, Jesus' primary criticisms of religious leaders
- Give scriptural evidence of what Jesus identified as the primary problem with religion.

Lesson 9: Religion Hides the Key of Knowledge

- Explain what Jesus meant when He said that religionists were taking away the "key of knowledge"
- Describe ways in which true Christianity leads people into a relationship with God and brings people into life in the way God created life to be

Lesson 10: Religion Leads Its Converts Away

- Articulate God's greatest desire for His people
- Explain the difference between knowing and trusting Jesus and a works based religion
- Define the only condition that people have to meet in order to become a Christian, providing scriptural support for the answer

Course Requirements

In order to receive credit, the student must complete the course requirements within a 90-day period. Course requirements include:

- Viewing the Class Time lectures for each lesson

- Completing the Reading Assignment for each lesson
- Composing adequate responses to all questions in the Response Time forums (see below for details)
- Reading the material in the Further Study section
- Keeping a Personal Reflection Journal in response to reflection questions
- Taking each lesson quiz and a final examination, scoring a 70% or higher average

Additional information about these requirements is provided below.

CLASS TIME

Each of the lessons in this course contains a lecture of approximately four to ten minutes in length. These instructional videos are required viewing, and can be watched as many times as needed. The same content is available in an audio file and a text file (PDF) for students who can benefit from these alternative media. This course includes the following Class Time lectures:

- Christ is Someone to Know and Trust
- Religion is Something to Believe and Do
- Religion Doesn't Change Hearts
- Religion Makes Much of Little
- Religion Makes It Easy to Deceive Ourselves
- Religion Makes Hypocrites of Us
- Religion Makes Life Harder
- Religion Offers the Approval of Men Rather Than God
- Religion Hides the Key of Knowledge
- Religions Leads Its Converts Away

READING ASSIGNMENT

Complete all readings listed in the Reading Assignment section of each lesson.

RESPONSE TIME

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded forum of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the Response Time forum, students should complete the assignment after they have completed the Class Time lecture. Then they should return to the Response Time forum after finishing the lesson to see how others respond. The following steps are instructions to the students for completing the assignment:

- Enter Response Time
- Read the instructions and click the Discussion Question you wish to respond to first.
- Read the Discussion Question and share your thoughts with others.
- Repeat for each Discussion Question.
- Take the time to read other students' postings.

CUGN requires that students' discussion forum posts consist of at least 2 to 3 well-developed paragraphs. Think of posts as mini-essays, where you present an idea and support that idea with details, examples, personal experiences, etc.

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

FURTHER STUDY

The Bible reading or study assignments covered in the Further Study section should be read completely at least once and responses to questions are to be recorded in the students' Personal Reflection Journals.

QUIZZES AND EXAM

The quizzes and exam will cover the material from the Class Time lectures, Reading Assignment, and Further Study.

Course Grading and Requirements

QUIZZES AND EXAM

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| Quizzes | 40% of Course Grade |
| Final Exam | 60% of Course Grade |

OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before credit is awarded to any student.

Notes Regarding This Syllabus

This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. Specific assignments are contained in each lesson.

Individuals taking the class for academic credit are responsible for the syllabus requirements of the specific institution through which the course is offered. Each individual institution has reserved the right to add additional reading requirements and to alter the syllabus to meet their accreditation requirements. Students seeking academic credit should check with their academic institution for details.