

COURSE SYLLABUS

WE504: Christian Worldview

Course Lecturer: James M. Grier, Th.D.

Former Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary

Course Description

How do you view reality? What is the source of your knowledge? Do you live what you believe? Such are the questions that a worldview answers. This course examines the nature and function of belief structures, and the value of developing and living a distinctly Christian life. The course develops a Christian worldview from a redemptive history model of biblical theology, which is then clarified using the philosophical categories of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology. Learners will gain an understanding of modern and postmodern thought and how to critique them biblically, and are encouraged to develop and apply a Christian worldview to life and ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Explain the functions and concepts of a worldview.
- Inventory presuppositions and control beliefs that inform his/her own worldview.
- Formulate a Christian worldview and evaluate ideas, values, and processes in life situations from the perspective of that worldview.
- Analyze alternative worldviews in the categories of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology.
- Enact worldview principles in Christian ministry.

Course Lecturer



Dr. James M. Grier was Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, and an authority in the area of ethics. At Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (since 1982), Dr. Grier influenced many with his courses in ethics and moral theology gaining a reputation as one of the finest scholars on a Christian worldview in evangelicalism.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Grier served for 15 years as Executive Vice President and Academic Dean at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. He also served two years as the Acting Academic Dean of Grand Rapids Bible College (Cornerstone University) from 1985–1986. He was also the Chairman of the Evangelical Seminary Dean's Council (ESDC) 1993–1998. Moreover, he pastored

on and off for more than 50 years while advising numerous hospital boards on medical ethics. Among his various professional memberships were The Evangelical Theological Society and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. His philanthropic endeavors included work at Home of Hope and Blodgett Hospital. When not teaching in the United States or abroad, he was sought after as a conference speaker on philosophical theology and worldview at churches across the globe.

Education:

- Baptist Bible College, B.Th.
- Grace Theological Seminary, M.Div.
- Westminster Theological Seminary, Th.M.
- Grace Theological Seminary, Th.D.

Other Our Daily Bread Christian University courses by this professor:

- WE503 Christian Ethics: A Biblical Theology of Morality

Course Texts

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door*. 4th ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Walsh, Brian and Richard Middleton. *The Transforming Vision*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1984.

Wolters, Albert. *Creation Regained*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.