

COURSE SYLLABUS

Christian Worldview

Course Lecturer: James M. Grier, ThD

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, you should be able to:

- Explain the functions and concepts of a worldview.
- Inventory presuppositions and control beliefs that inform your 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



James M. Grier, ThD (1932-2013)

Education:

- Grace Theological Seminary, ThD
- Westminster Theological Seminary, ThM
- Grace Theological Seminary, MDiv
- Baptist Bible College, BTh

Teaching Career:

- Executive Vice President and Academic Dean, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (1982-2012)
- Professor of Philosophy, Cedarville College, now Cedarville University (1969-1982)
- Adjunct Professor, Evangelical Baptist Seminary of Quebec (1984-2012)
- Adjunct Professor, Grace Theological Seminary (1978-2012)
- Acting Academic Dean, Grand Rapids Bible College, now Cornerstone University (1985-1986)
- Visiting or adjunct professor at Asia Baptist Theological Seminary, Puritan Reformed Seminary, and London Reformed Baptist Seminary
- Taught and preached extensively in Canada, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and Zambia
- Reputation as one of the finest scholars on a Christian worldview in evangelicalism

Other Career Highlights:

- Chairman of the Evangelical Seminary Dean's Council (1993-1998)
- Pastor on and off for more than 50 years
- Advised numerous hospital boards on medical ethics
- Various professional memberships, including The Evangelical Theological Society and the Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Philanthropic work at Home of Hope and Blodgett Hospital
- Conference speaker on philosophical theology and worldview at churches across the globe

Publications:

- Contributor to books, including *The Relation of the Law to Christ*, *Demonstrating Truth in Our Lives*, *Doing Theology in the Context of Church Ministry*, and *Calvinistic Philosophy*

Recommended Reading

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 your local bookstore, various online bookstores, 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.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.