

# Shaping a Christ Focused Worldview

## Syllabus

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### TEACHER:

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### DESCRIPTION:

*Everyone has a worldview.* It is important not only to know *what* we believe to be true of reality, but also *why* we believe. We need a framework which allows us to examine and evaluate our own beliefs and the beliefs of others.

In this 14 week course, students will learn a set of categories and questions that allow them to understand how worldviews work in *general*. We will also use these categories and questions to help in understanding *specific* worldviews.

We will explore the fundamental worldview questions of our origin, meaning, purpose, and destiny as humans. We will explore how several key worldviews answer these questions. The ultimate goal of this course is to equip our students with the knowledge and practical habits to live from a Bible based, Christ-focused worldview in light of current cultural challenges.

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### REQUIRED TEXTS:

A Bible (A modern version that you can read with little difficulty)

*The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog* by James Sire (*provided*)

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### COURSE EVALUATION:

**30%** Class participation

**30%** Quizzes

**30%** 2 Worldview Presentations (*instructions will be given*)

**10%** Personal Worldview Presentation and Defense

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### WORLDVIEW PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Using the book *The Universe Next Door* by James W. Sire as the primary resource, students will give a presentation on an assigned worldview. The presentation should summarize the particular worldview's answers to Sire's 8 basic questions

listed on pages 22-23. The presentation should help us understand the essence of the assigned worldview.

Each student will also give their own, *subjective evaluation* of the worldview by addressing the following questions:

1. Is it comprehensive, large enough to explain life and answer the hard questions?
2. Does the Worldview make sense of the actual facts of reality?
3. Does the worldview make logical sense according to its own beliefs and commitments? or Is it internally coherent and consistent (at peace with itself)?
4. Could you actually live your life according to this worldview? *or* Does this Worldview provide a satisfying view of the world?

\*Chapter 11 “The Examined Life” in *The Universe Next Door* may be helpful for preparing your subjective evaluation.

Try to find examples of your assigned worldview in books, movies, songs, etc. to show actual ways the worldview is presented or lived out.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

\* *On the following schedule, the reading is DUE—to be completed—by the date listed. We will be discussing those chapters on the date listed.*

**Week 01**—(September 8 & 11, 2020)

**Tuesday:** Intro to Course

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 1 “A World of Difference”  
“Worldview Overview: Common Components”

**Week 02**—(September 15 & 18, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 2 “Theism”

**Week 03**—(September 22 & 25, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 10 “Islam”

**Week 04**—(September 29 & October 2, 2020)

**Week 05**—(October 6 & 9, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 3 “Deism”

**Week 06**—(October 13 & 16, 2020)

**Week 07**—(October 20 & 23, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 4 “Naturalism”

**Week 08**—(October 27 & 30, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 5 “Nihilism”

**Week 09**—(November 3 & 6, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 6 “Existentialism”

**Week 10**—(November 10 & 13, 2020)

**Week 11**—(November 17 & 20, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 7 “Eastern Pantheistic Monism”

**THANKSGIVING Break** (November 24 & 27, 2020)

**Week 12**—(December 1 & 4, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 8 “New Age”

**Week 13**—(December 8 & 11, 2020)

**Friday:** Sire, Chapter 9 “Postmodernism”

**Week 14**—(December 15 & 18, 2020)