



To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

TH 534 Christian Worldview

May 7-11 2018 (Modular)

<http://moodle.sfseminary.edu/>

Anchor yourself to the foundation of everything you are.

INSTRUCTOR: Randal D. Rauser, PhD
Phone: 780-431-4428
Email: randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca; randalrauser@gmail.com

SCHEDULE: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday)

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the concept of worldview and the lineaments of the Christian worldview and Christian mind. The course will include both an introduction to the way that Christian belief impacts all Christian thinking as well as a critical analysis of major challenges to the Christian worldview such as atheistic naturalism, postmodernism and consumerism. (Three Credits)

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. understand the intellectual coherence and force of a Christian worldview.
2. understand how a truly Christian mind affects one's total life-experience.
3. value the power of thinking Christianly in all things.
4. serve by modeling a Christian mind integrated with action in the church and society.

TEXTBOOK(S):

Anderson, Tawa J., W. Michael Clark, and David K. Naugle. *An Introduction to Christian Worldview: Pursuing God's Perspective in a Pluralistic World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017.

Cavanaugh, William T. *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

Haltzman, Matthew. *Compassionate Eating as Care of Creation*. HSUS Faith Outreach Booklet Series. HSUS, 2008. [Available in a PDF document on the course website.]

Nicholi, Armand M. *The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud debate God, Love, Sex and the Meaning of Life*. New York: Free Press, 2002.

Rausser, Randal. *You're not as Crazy as I Think*. Colorado Springs, CO: Biblica, 2011.
 [This textbook is available for purchase from Dr. Rausser for \$10.]

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Pre-Course Assignment: Reading (300 pp.)

Complete the reading of Anderson, et. al *An Introduction to Christian Worldview* prior to the beginning of class. **12 hours**

2. Pre-Course Assignment: Book Review

For assignment directions, see part 5, "Four Book Reviews."

Due Date: May 7: Anderson et. al, *An Introduction to Christian Worldview*

3. Class Participation

It is important to attend class regularly, arrive on time, refrain from sleeping or scanning Facebook during class, and contribute to class discussions.

4. Text Readings (600 pp.)

26 hours

5. Four Book Reviews

18 hours

A book review is required for each of the four main texts: Anderson, et. al, Cavanaugh, Nicholi and Rausser. Each review should summarize the book in about 750 words, and then spend about 250 words engaging in critical interaction. (What did you agree with? Where did you disagree? Which questions has this book raised? Which questions did it answer?)

All citations from the book or references to specific points therein should be parenthetical: e.g. Rausser argues that God loves people (77). *Do not* use footnotes for this assignment.

(1000-1250 words × 4 =4000-5000 words)

Due Dates: May 7: Anderson et. al, *An Introduction to Christian Worldview*

May 21: Rausser, *You're not as Crazy as I Think*

May 28: Nicholi, *The Question of God*

June 4: Cavanaugh, *Being Consumed*

6. Worldview Term Paper Bibliography and Outline

4 hours

The paper is to be written as an enquiry into a particular topic from a Christian perspective. *Topics must be chosen in consultation with the professor.* The paper should reflect a thoughtful engagement with the topic in question, highlighting how a Christian perspective informs reflection on the topic. Keep in mind that in many cases there are a range of possible perspectives a Christian might take. The key is to offer *one* informed Christian perspective rather than the *only possible* Christian perspective. **Please notify me of your preferred topic via email by the final day of class (May 11).**

Possible topics include:

genocide; credit; factory farms; heavy metal music; cosmetic surgery; eco-tourism; sexual ethics; time; vacations; the slow food movement; animal rights activism; U2's music; privatized health care; military industrial complex; nationalism; other religions; cancer; super heroes; circumcision; marriage; beauty; homosexuality; torture...

Submit a thesis or enquiry statement, along with a one page outline of the paper and a bibliography with a minimum of *10 academic sources* (peer-reviewed journals and books). Assigned course readings may be included on your bibliography but *do not count toward the ten source requirement.* Follow this structure for the outline:

- I. Main Point
 - A. Sub Point
 - 1. sub point
 - B. Sub Point
- II. Main Point

Due Date: May 25

7. Worldview Term Paper

16 hours

This paper can be structured in the form of a thesis defense (e.g. “I will argue that Christians should be pacifists”) or as an enquiry (e.g. “I will explore how Christian conviction might shape the practice of biology.”). The paper should highlight how this Christian perspective differs from a non-Christian perspective on the same subject matter. As a research paper it should demonstrate a thoughtful engagement with the relevant literature. It is *not* simply a “reflection paper”.

In writing your paper, follow the guidelines of the Taylor Research and Writing Guide including title page, footnotes or endnotes, and bibliography. The Guide is available on the course website.

(3000-3500 words)

Due Date: June 15

8. Worldview class presentation

After completing the paper you will present your results to the class by way of an online presentation. Presentations should take 15-25 minutes to view. Students are required to upload a video of your presentation to YouTube. The presentation could be a video of you presenting your findings or a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation with accompanying audio narration. Once the presentation is uploaded, the URL (i.e. web address) for the YouTube presentation should be emailed to the professor by 11:59 pm on the due date so it can be made available to the students along with an accompanying presentation discussion forum where students can pose questions.

Due Date: June 8

10 hours

9. Worldview presentation forum

The presentation discussion forum which accompanies the class presentation will be open for student comments for *one week*. During that week presenters are asked to check into the forum *once per day* to answer any questions that are posed.

Forum week: June 8-15

4 hour

Total: 90 hours

TITLING YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Please follow this template for naming assignment documents:

Book Review:	Last name-Book Review (e.g. Jones-Book Review)
Term Paper:	Last name-Term Paper

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ASSIGNMENT: Assignments should be emailed to randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca before 11:59 pm on the day they are due to ensure you do not receive a late penalty. Do not submit a hard copy. When you email your assignment it is recommended that you request a read receipt to ensure that your assignment has been received. *You are responsible to ensure that the assignment is received.*

LATE PENALTIES: Assignments automatically receive a 5% penalty for every day that they are late. Assignments late more than one week will receive 0%. (Weekends count as one day.) Extensions will not be granted **except in the case of a specific personal or medical crisis.**

EVALUATION:	Class Participation	10%
	Online Forum Participation	10%
	Book Reviews (4×10%)	40%
	Worldview Outline and Bibliography	0%
	Worldview Paper	20%
	Worldview Presentation and Forum	20%

FINAL REMARKS:*Moodle.*

Taylor Seminary's Moodle platform has been migrated to our sister seminary in South Dakota, Sioux Falls Seminary (SFS). Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access:

<https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is your first initial of your first name and your last name all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log in as jcalvin

Your assigned password is: TaylorSem123\$

You will be forced to change it to a personal password the first time you log-in. Your new password should include at least one capital letter, a numeric symbol and a non-numeric symbol.

Once you are logged into the platform, you will need to enrol yourself in the courses.

- Click on 'Taylor Seminary' for Taylor's online courses and "Sioux Falls Seminary" for SFS's online courses. The course subjects will be listed.
- Click on the appropriate course subject and the courses will be listed.
- Select the course in which you wish to enrol.
- The default enrolment key is the course code (with no uppercase and no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number. For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417.

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email

teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

Formatting.

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

Plagiarism.

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or

footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.**

*If plagiarism you are tempted to do,
be warned it fits ill with a Christian worldview.*

Course Withdrawal Policy

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a "W" will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an "F" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE:

INTRODUCING CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

	Worldview: A brief introduction	
	Christian Worldview: conceptions and misconceptions	
	The Question of God	
	A brief history of (Christian) worldview; Models of Christ and culture	
	Pluralism and engagement: How to listen to and learn from others	

CHRISTIANITY MEETS NATURALISM AND POSTMODERNISM

	Naturalism as a worldview project	
	Postmodernism and truth	

BUILDING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

	A theology of vocation	
	Consumerism and Christianity	
	A case study: Bible translation and the marketplace	
	The ethics of food; A discussion of Matthew Halteman, <i>Compassionate Eating as Care of Creation</i>	

GOING ONLINE

	Book Discussion Forums: Each book has an accompanying discussion forum which opens on the day the book review is due. Be sure to share your thoughts and interact with your fellow students once you've submitted your review	
	Presentation Week: June 8-15 Be sure to view the student presentations and participate in the discussion forums.	

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