

CS 3362

The Church in the Contemporary World

Spring 2010

Instructor: Larry Hall

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Instructor: Larry Hall

Thursdays
5:00 – 8:00 PM

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Available by appointment at AGST on Thursdays
(in Belton Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays)

I. Course Goals

Through the successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate familiarity with the general concepts of Worldview and Culture and with the common worldviews of our pluralistic twenty-first century American culture. The student will be able to distinguish between modernism and postmodernism, displaying an ability to critically analyze both along with their strengths and weaknesses in light of scripture, and their influence on the Christian community. The student will display an awareness of the challenges the church faces in being “salt and light” to today’s world and in speaking to the questions, “What is true; what is important?”

II. Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to clearly articulate and effectively assess his/her understanding of our cultures worldviews and values and how this understanding impacts and clarifies his/her own worldview and values as well as his/her commitment to and fitness for interaction with the culture.

2. The student will demonstrate an awareness of specific Biblical teachings as well as an overarching biblical worldview and response to culture (“the world”).

3. The student will succinctly state his/her own worldview and its basic theology/metaphysic, briefly addressing epistemology, cosmology, ontology, teleology, anthropology, sociology, aesthetic and morality.

4 The student will address, in personal terms, the “so what” of this study: “How specifically do I myself plan now to interact with this culture?”

III. Means of Assessment

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Meaningful participation in Class Discussion | 15% of grade |
| 3. Performance on two Quizzes | 10% ea. o.g. |
| 4. Performance on two major Exams | 15% ea. o.g. |
| 5. Completion of one Book Review | 15% o.g. |
| 6. Completion of a written Statement of “Worldview & Strategy” | 20% o.g. |

(see Special Instructions for the Reviews and Statement)

IV. Class Schedule

Readings from required texts are to be completed before each week's class; the student will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading thoroughly and critically.

1/21 Introduction: Ism's Out the Ears

Simply Christian by N. T. Wright

1/28 Echoes of a Voice QUIZ

2/4 Staring at the Sun

2/11 Reflecting the Image

2/18 Review and Preview EXAM

The Universe Next Door by James Sire

2/25 Preface/A World of Difference/A Universe Charged with the Grandeur of God

3/4 The Clockwork Universe/The Silence of Finite Space

3/11 Zero Point/Beyond Nihilism

3/18 SPRING BREAK

3/25 Journey to the East/A Separate Universe

4/1 The Vanished Horizon/A View from the Middle East/The Examined Life

4/8 Review and Preview QUIZ

The Church in Emerging Culture by Leonard Sweet, et al.

4/15 Introduction/Introduction to the Contributors BOOK REPORTS

4/22 Crouch/Horton/Green

4/29 McLaren/McManus

5/6 Concluding Words and Review "WORLDVIEW & STRATEGY" PAPERS

5/13 FINAL

V. Bibliography

A. Required Texts

Sire, James W. "The Universe Next Door" (Fifth Edition). InterVarsity Press, Downer's Grove. 2009

Wright, N. T. "Simply Christian." Harper Collins, New York. 2006

Sweet, Leonard. "The Church in Emerging Culture." Zondervan, Grand Rapids. 2003

B. Recommended Reading

Armour, Michael C., Ph.D. "System- Sensitive Leadership." College Press Publishing Company, Joplin. 2002

Baker, Hunter. "The End of Secularism." Crossway, Wheaton. 2009

Bayles, Martha. "Hole in Our Soul: The Loss of Beauty and Meaning in American Popular Music." New York: Free Press. 1994

Behe, Michael. "Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution." New York: Touchstone. 1996

Bell, James. "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Victor Books/SP Publications, Inc. 1993

Bell, Rob. "Velvet Elvis." Zondervan, Grand Rapids. 2005

Benson, Bruce Ellis. "Graven Ideologies." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 2002

Berman, Morris. "The Twilight of American Culture." W.W. Norton & Company, New York. 2000

Carson, D. A. "Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church." Zondervan, Grand Rapids. 2005

Clapp, Rodney. "A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society." Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1996

Colson, Charles, with Nancy Pearcey. "A Dance with Deception: Revealing The Truth Behind the Headlines." Word, Dallas. 1993

_____. "How Now Shall We Live?" Tyndale House Publishing, Wheaton. 1999

Cope, Mike. "Living in Two Worlds." Christian Communications, Nashville. 1987

Dembski, William A. "The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance through Small Probabilities." Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998

_____. "The Design Revolution." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 2004

Dockery, David S. "The Challenge of Postmodernism." Baker, Grand Rapids. 1997

- Downing, Crystal L. "How Postmodernism Serves (My) Faith." InterVarsity Press, Downer's Grove. 2006
- Eliot, T. S. "Christianity and Culture." Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich, New York. 1968
- Evans, C. Stephen. "Why Believe? Reason and Mystery as Pointer to God." Eerdmans, Grand Rapids. 1996
- Everts, Don and Schaupp, Doug. "I Once Was Lost." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 2008
- Ewing, Amy Orr. "Is the Bible Intolerant?" InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 2005
- Gallup, George, Jr. "The Next American Spirituality: Finding God in the Twenty-First Century." Colorado Springs: Victor. 2000
- Gay, Craig M. "With Liberty and Justice for Whom?: The Recent Evangelical Debate over Capitalism." Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1991
- Glover, Willis B. "Biblical Origins of Modern Secular Culture." Mercer University Press, Macon. 1984
- Greenberg, Eric H., and Karl Weber. Generation We. Emeryville: Pachatusan, 2008.
- Grenz, Stanley J. "Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era." Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000.
- Guder, Darrell L. "The Continuing Conversation of the Church (The Gospel & Our Culture Series)." Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans. 2000
- Guinness, Os. "Winning Back the Soul of American Business." Burke: Hourglass. 1990
- Henderson, David W. "Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth in our Changing World." Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 1996
- Henry, Carl F. H. "The Christian Mind-set in a Secular Society." Multnomah, Portland. 1978
- Hill, Johathan. "What Has Christianity Ever Done For Us?" InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 2005
- Hoekema, Neil and Bobby Fong, ed. "Christianity and Culture in the Crossfire." Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1997
- Holmes, Arthur. "The Making of a Christian Mind." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 1985
- Howe, Neil and William Strauss. "The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy." Broadway Books. 1998
- _____. "Millenials Rising: The Next Great Generation." Vintage. 2000
- _____. "The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy." Broadway Books, 1998.
- Hunsberger, George R., Craig Van Gelder, eds. "The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America." Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1996

- Jeffrey, David Lyle. "People of the Book: Christian Identity and Literary Culture." Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1996
- Jelen, Ted G. "To Serve God and Mammon." Georgetown University Press, Washington. 2010
- Johnson, Phillip E. "Darwin on Trial." 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press. 1993
- _____. "Objections Sustained: Subversive Essays on Evolution, Law, and Culture." Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press. 1998
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- _____. "God in the Dock: Essays on Theology & Ethics. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids. 1970
- _____. "Mere Christianity." Macmillan Publishing Co., New York. 1943
- Lewy, Guenter. "Why America Needs Religion: Secular Modernity and Its Discontent." Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1996
- Lundin, Roger. "The Culture of Interpretation: A Christian Encounter with Postmodern Critical Theory." Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1993
- Mack, Dana. "The Assault on Parenthood: How our Culture Undermines the Family. New York: Simon & Schuster. 1997
- _____. "Life Without Father: Compelling New Evidence that Fatherhood and Marriage Are Indispensable for the Good of Children and Society." Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1999
- Marsden, George M. "The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship." New York: Oxford University Press. 1998
- McCallum, Dennis. "The Death of Truth: What's Wrong with Multiculturalism, the Rejection of Reason, and the New Postmodern Diversity. Minneapolis: Bethany, 1996
- McGrath, Alister and Joanna Collicutt. "The Dawkins Delusion?" InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 2007
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- Middleton, J. Richard and Walsh, Brian J. "The Transforming Vision". InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 1984

- _____. "Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 1995
- Miller, Donald. "Blue Like Jazz." Thomas Nelson Inc., Nashville. 2003
- _____. "A Million Miles in a Thousand Years." Thomas Nelson Inc., Nashville. 2009
- _____. "Searching for God Knows What." Thomas Nelson Inc., Nashville. 2004
- Myers, Ken. "All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians and Popular Culture." Westchester: Crossway. 1989
- Nash, Ronald. "Poverty and Wealth: The Christian Debate over Capitalism." Westchester: Crossway. 1986
- Neuhaus, Richard John. "America Against Itself: Moral Vision and the Public Order." Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. 1992
- _____. "Doing Well and Doing Good: The Challenge to the Christian Capitalist." New York: Doubleday. 1992
- Newbiggin, Lesslie. "The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission." Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans. 1995
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. "Christ and Culture." San Francisco: HarperCollins. 1986
- Noll, Mark. "The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 1994
- Novak, Michael. "Business as a Calling: Work and the Examined Life." New York: Free Press. 1996
- Olasky, Marvin, ed. "Loving Your Neighbor: A Principled Guide to Personal Charity." Washington, D.C.: Capital Research Center. 1995
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- Poe, Harry L. "Christian Witness in a Postmodern World." Nashville: Abingdon. 2001
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- _____. "The Victory of Reason." Rodney Stark, 2005
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- _____. "Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Comtemporary Thought and Culture." Crossway Books. 1994
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- _____. "State of the Arts: From Bezalel to Mapplethorpe." Wheaton: Crossway. 1991

Walsh, Brian J. and Middleton, J. Richard. "The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View." InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove. 1984

Webber, Robert E. "Ancient-Future Evangelism." Baker Books, Grand Rapids. 2003

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Wilkens, Steven and Sanford, Mark L. "Hidden Worldviews." InterVarsity Press, Downer's Grove. 2009

Winter, Richard. "Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment." InterVarsity Press, Downer's Grove. 2002

Yancey, Phillip. "Rumors of Another World." Zondervan, Grand Rapids. 2003

Yoder, John H. "Authentic Transformation: A New Vision for Christ and Culture", Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996.

VI. Special Instructions for Book Reviews & Statement on Worldview

All written works must use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. They must be between two and four pages long, double-spaced twelve-point type with one-inch margins, clear and thorough enough to be useful to classmates. Students will provide the instructor with electronic and hard copies as well as hard copies to all classmates. Papers will also be read and discussed in class.

Book Reviews will address these kinds of questions: What is the author's thesis and main supporting points? How well and convincingly are the points made; how could they have been better presented? Where do you agree and where do you disagree with the author; why? What issues does the author fail to address? What is the best sentence or paragraph in the book; why? For what kind of readership would you recommend this book; in what ways could it be used? The review must contain the book's name, author(s), date and place of publication, publisher and number of pages. The student's name should also appear at the beginning of the paper.

The Statement on Worldview & Strategy will clearly and thoughtfully articulate your own overall worldview and metaphysic, briefly addressing such elements as epistemology, cosmology, ontology, teleology, anthropology, sociology, aesthetic and morality. Given that perspective, then, how should the church interact with the culture? Reflect also on your personal vision and strategy for being "salt and light" to your world. Your Statement will reflect an ability to interact with the material covered in the class. The Statement will begin with a title of the student's creation, then the subtitle, *A Statement on Worldview, Culture and Strategy*, followed by the student's name.

NOTES