

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

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### **PHIL 104**

#### **CONTEMPORARY WORLDVIEWS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An overview of the major worldviews, including their history and current relations with other religions and philosophies, their influence, when applicable, on historical forces (cultural, social, political, and economic), and the effects of worldview on behavior. Common critiques to each worldview will be included and analyzed from various schools such as historicism and existentialism. The issue of absolutes, the existence of God, and how people view revelation from God will be emphasized with several worldviews.

#### **RATIONALE**

PHIL 104 is designed to deepen and broaden the student's understanding of the core fundamentals of the Christian worldview, and to equip the student to present that view in the face of competing worldviews. The goal is to enable students to think more clearly and critically about Christianity and truth, so that they may become more effective witnesses and participate more constructively in the larger socio-cultural debate. In order to accomplish this goal, we must (1) understand the essentials of Christian truth, (2) understand the historical opponents to Christianity and truth, and (3) present a biblical, logical, and reasonable defense of Christianity. Through studying worldviews, we can better understand the nature of man and his conduct so that we are prepared to address relevant questions in our culture of pluralistic spiritualism. As the Apostle Paul states, "Know how you should respond to each person who asks us about such things" (Col. 4:6 NASB). By understanding worldviews, one acquires a powerful form of wisdom that characterized the sons of Issachar, "men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do." 1 Chron.12:32 (NASB).

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

None

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Caner, Ergun. *When Worldviews Collide*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 2005. ISBN: 1-415-82114-3.

Caner, Ergun, and Ed Hindson (eds.) *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-7369-2084-1.

*Disclaimer: The above resources(s) provide information consistent with the latest research regarding the subject area. Liberty University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.*

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with internet access (broadband recommended)
- B. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)
- C. Windows Media Player

**IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define the terminology associated with the study of worldviews.
- B. Identify specific historical, biblical, and Christian apologetic information regarding Jesus Christ.
- C. Examine the Christian gospel and its impact upon culture.
- D. Analyze student opinions concerning their views of the Christian gospel and its impact upon culture.
- E. Identify the historical backgrounds and major beliefs of prominent religious and philosophical worldviews.
- F. Recall the historical backgrounds and major beliefs of contemporary religious cults.
- G. Identify key Christian theological beliefs and their relationship to other worldviews.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings, video lessons/notes, and selected articles/websites  

Each module contains video lessons that the student will be required to watch. In addition, the student will be assigned textbook readings, articles, and websites that contain necessary information for the assignments in this course.
- B. Discussion Board forums (2)  

During this course, the student will complete Discussion Board forums in two parts over a period of two weeks: the original thread due in one week and replies to two classmates' threads due in a subsequent week. In Modules 2 and 5, the student will post their 250–300 word thread in response to the instructor's prompt. In Modules 3 and 6, the student will post two 150-word replies for each forum.
- C. Quizzes (4)  

In Modules 1, 2, 5, and 7, students will complete closed-book/closed-notes quizzes that consist of 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions based on the Reading & Study information. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz.
- D. Exams (2)

Students will complete both a Midterm and a Final Exam. Both exams are closed-book/closed-notes and consist of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. Students will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete each exam.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Discussion Board forums (2 at 150 ea)	300
Quizzes (4 at 50 ea)	200
Midterm Exam (Modules 1–4)	250
Final Exam (Modules 5–8)	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact LU Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [luodas@liberty.edu](mailto:luodas@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PHIL 104**

Textbooks: Caner, *When Worldviews Collide* (2005).

Caner & Hindson, *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics* (2008).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Caner: pp. 8–49 Caner & Hindson: 3 selected entries 1 website, 6 videos	Course Requirements Checklist Contact Information Quiz Class Introductions Quiz 1	0 0 0 50
<b>2</b>	Caner: pp. 50–65 Caner & Hindson: 5 selected entries 1 article, 1 website, 3 videos	DB Forum 1 (thread) Quiz 2	50 50
<b>3</b>	Caner: pp. 66–103 Caner & Hindson: 3 selected entries 4 videos	DB Forum 1 (replies)	100
<b>4</b>	Caner: pp. 104–142 Caner & Hindson: 2 selected entries 4 videos	Midterm Exam	250
<b>5</b>	Caner & Hindson: 4 selected entries 1 set of Lesson notes 4 videos	DB Forum 2 (thread) Quiz 3	50 50
<b>6</b>	Caner & Hindson: 5 selected entries 4 videos	DB Forum 2 (replies)	100
<b>7</b>	Caner & Hindson: 4 selected entries 4 videos	Quiz 4	50
<b>8</b>	Caner & Hindson: 6 selected entries 2 videos	Final Exam Final Thoughts	250 0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.