

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

DBFA 300 – MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND FAITH: BASIC WORLDVIEWS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines basic cultural and biblical worldviews regarding both marriage and the family as core societal institutions and lays a biblical foundation for understanding policy making and advocacy concerns. Philosophical and spiritual dynamics are examined from a Judeo-Christian perspective and in light with current social norms. Ethical concerns and multicultural factors are also considered.

RATIONALE

The evolving definitions of marriage and the family are among the most controversial social issues in America today. How Christians navigate the complexities of these issues matters greatly for both an eternal impact on individual families, but also as it pertains to societal impact regarding the direction of a nation. There is a need to understand the history and current landscape of these conflicting worldviews and provide the foundations of a plan for the preservation of traditional Judeo-Christian values, as well as the well-being of the family. This course is offered in an eight-week format and includes extensive readings, interactions with couples, a position paper, and interactions with other students via Discussion Board.

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

I. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

II. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

III. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Identify why philosophy and worldviews matter when viewed against the various worldviews prevalent today.

- B.** Defend a Christian worldview and the biblical definition of marriage and family.
- C.** Describe the philosophical and theological impediments to understanding the biblical worldview of marriage and family such as dualism, postmodernism, ethical relativism, utilitarianism, and egoism.
- D.** Defend biblical Christianity as a complete philosophical system that embraces the whole of reality and every aspect of human life as a credible belief system for marriage and family.
- E.** Recognize a biblical worldview as the key to self-understanding and personal integration and as the means of orienting him/herself in human history, the world and culture.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook Readings and Lecture Presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Essays

The student will write a double-spaced essay of at 500 words in current APA format using a provided prompt about the various issues impacting the family. The essay must incorporate research and demonstrate course-related knowledge.

D. 4 MAT Review (2)

The 4-MAT Book Review system is a way of responding to readings that requires the learner to interact with new ideas on several levels, including a Summary, Concrete Responses, a Reflection, and personal Application. Please see the specific assignment instructions included with the course materials.

E. Exams (2)

There will be two open book exams in the course. Material for the first exam will cover lectures and reading of modules 1-4. The second exam will cover lecture and readings from module 5-8.

F. Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Essays (4 at 60 pts ea.)	240
4 Mat Review (2 at 230 pts ea)	460
2 Exams (2@ 150 pts ea)	300
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

VII. SUGGESTED READINGS

- Bennett, W. (2012). *America: The last best hope (Vol. I.)* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson. ISBN: 1595551115.
- Dees, R. (2014). *Resilient nations*. San Diego, CA: Creative Team Publishing. ISBN: 0989797562.
- Dobson, J. (2004). *Marriage under fire: Why we must win this battle*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah. ISBN: 1590524314
- Moreland, J.P. & Craig, W. L. (2003). *Philosophical foundations for a Christian worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press. ISBN: 0830826947.
- Sire, J. W. (2009). *The universe next door: A basic worldview catalog (5th ed.)*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press. ISBN: 0830838503

COURSE SCHEDULE

DBFA 300 – MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND FAITH: BASIC WORLDVIEWS

TEXTBOOKS:

Bennett, W. J. *The broken hearth: Reversing the moral collapse of the American family* (2002).

Buckley, C. & Dobson, R. *Humanitarian Jesus: Social justice and the cross.* (2010).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	An Invitation to Christian Worldview Bennett – Ch. 1-2 Presentations (3)*	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Essay 1	10 0 60
2	The Family in History Bennett – Ch. 3-4 Presentations (3)*	Essay 2	60
3	Cohabitation, Illegitimacy, Fatherlessness Bennett – Ch. 4-6 Presentations (3)*	4 MAT Book Review #1 – Bennett Text	230
4	Marriage Under Fire Buckley & Dobson – Ch. 1-2 Presentations (2)*	Exam #1 Covering the Bennett text and first half of course materials.	150
5	Homosexuality Buckley & Dobson – Ch. 3-4 Presentations (2)*	Essay 3	60
6	Marriage Under Fire Buckley & Dobson – Ch. 5-6 Presentations (2)*	4 MAT Book Review #2 – Dobson Text	230
7	A Few Home Truths / Sanctity of Life Presentations (2)*	Essay 4	60
8	Humanitarian Jesus / Sanctity of Life Presentations (2)*	Exam#2 Covering Dobson/Buckley and second half of course materials.	150
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

* Please refer to the Course Content for the week for specific presentation information

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