

# Cincinnati Christian University

## PHIL 340 – Survey of World Views (3 semester credit hours)

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**Spring 2019**

TH 2:00pm-3:15pm

### Course Syllabus

**DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to basic elements of differing world views (perspectives of reality which are often taken for granted) discussing the big questions of life from various philosophical perspectives. The goal is to help students develop their own cohesive and functional views of reality within a Christian learning environment.

**RATIONALE:** To understand the philosophical premises that structure modern thought and society, students must be made aware of the differing “worldviews” that compete for primacy within the marketplace of ideas.

**OBJECTIVES:** The student will...

- Be able to explain the concept of worldview and distinguish between various worldviews by identifying the characteristic traits of the differing worldviews.
- Recognize and identify various worldview convictions as they are expressed in diverse cultural forms of communication.
- Utilize their understanding of worldview as a tool for evaluating culture and society from a Christian perspective.
- Develop analytical reading, writing, and listening skills.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance** – Absences are strongly discouraged. Excessive absences will result in the lowering of your grade (see the college catalog for attendance requirements).
2. **Summaries** – On Canvas the student will find files that contain twelve different articles or videos that correlate with the worldviews to be discussed that week. Of the twelve, the student is to pick ten articles to summarize. These summaries will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 page in length for each article, no less and no more. The student is to write a thesis statement at the top of each summary that captures the essence of the article. These theses are to be in **BOLD** and UNDERLINED, and separate from the body of the paper. Please note that these are not to be opinions, nor are they outlines. Summaries take paragraph format (no numbers or bullet points) and are to be an objective analysis of the reading. Below, in the course schedule section, you will find that each worldview is assigned a date. Next to the worldview is the name of the author the student is to read and summarize for that day of class. Sire’s book, The Universe Next Door, is required to assist the student in understanding many of the given worldviews. No late work will be accepted. These summaries are worth 7 percentage points apiece, 70% together.
3. **Journals** – at the end of each class, the student is to write for ten minutes on the worldview discussed that day. These are completely open-ended and the student is encouraged to take the topics covered that day wherever they may wish. There is one journal every day worth one percentage point of the final grade, 15% together.
4. **Final Exam** – the final exam will take place on the last day of class and will be comprehensive. Students who do not miss any classes will be given a take-home exam in its place. The final exam is 15% of the final grade.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** Letter grades will be determined in accordance with the percentages listed in the college catalog. Individual grades will be based on the following criteria:

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| a. Final Examination | 15%           |
| b. Summaries         | 70% (7% each) |
| c. Journals          | 15% (1% each) |

**TEXT MATERIALS:**

James Sire, The Universe Next Door, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1971.  
ISBN: 0-8308-1899-5

## **Course Schedule**

**1/24** – Intro to Worldviews//Journal Discussion #1

**1/29** – Journal Discussion #2

**1/31** – Dualism

**2/5** – Journal Discussion #3

**2/7** – Pantheistic Monism

**2/12** – Journal Discussion #4

**2/14** – Deism

**2/19** – Journal Discussion #3

**2/21** – Materialism/Scientism

**2/26** – Journal Discussion #4

**2/28** – Naturalism

**3/5** – Journal Discussion #5

**3/7** – Christian Existentialism

**3/12** – *Spring Break – NO CLASSES*

**3/14** – *Spring Break – NO CLASSES*

**3/19** – Journal Discussion #6

**3/21** – Atheistic Existentialism

**3/26** – Journal Discussion #7

**3/28** – Postmodernism

**4/2** – Watch Film

**4/4** – Critical Theory

**4/9** – Journal Discussion #8

**4/11** – Community Service Day – NO CLASSES

**4/16** – Journal Discussion #9

**4/18** – Liberation Theory

**4/23** – Journal Discussion #10

**4/25** – Feminist Theory

**4/30** – Journal Discussion #11

**5/2** – Queer Theory

**5/7** – Journal Discussion #12

**5/9** – Watch Film and Review for Final

**5/14** – **FINAL EXAMINATION**

**Accommodations:** Students who require academic accommodations due to a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability may request assistance from the Student Services Department. Students are encouraged to complete this process within the first two weeks of the semester. The Student Services Department is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone at 244-8150. Tutoring services in various subjects are also available.