



Course Syllabus

LHUM 103 – OL Christian Worldview and Culture

3 Credit hours

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the history, nature, and function of belief structures and their effect on culture, specifically the distinctly Christian worldview based on foundational biblical themes such as creation, humanity in God's image, sin and the fall of man, evil, redemption, and restoration. Compares and contrasts various worldviews using the philosophical categories of metaphysics and epistemology. Surveys shift in worldviews over time and teach practical Christian apologetics as a response to these changes.

Prerequisites: None

II. ACADEMIC MISSION

Oral Roberts University's academic mission is to transform students by the power of the Holy Spirit into whole, competent servant-leaders through liberal arts and professional education that is fully Christian. Within a Spirit-filled healing community, administration, faculty, and staff love and serve students by helping them grow in knowledge, skills, wisdom, character, and spirit.

Student transformation is measured through the evaluation of student expression of University learning outcomes as demonstrated through accompanying proficiencies and capacities.

<i>Spiritually alive</i>	Biblical knowledge; sensitivity to the Holy Spirit; evangelistic capability; ethical behavior
<i>Intellectually alert</i>	Critical thinking; information literacy; global and historical perspectives; aesthetic appreciation; intellectual creativity
<i>Physically disciplined</i>	Healthy lifestyle; physically active lifestyle
<i>Socially adept</i>	Communication skills; interpersonal skills; appreciation of cultural and linguistic differences; responsible citizenship; leadership capacity
<i>Professionally competent</i>	Discipline-specific proficiencies listed under Program Outcomes.

The last page of this syllabus, "COURSE INVENTORY for ORU's Course Objectives," indicates how this course supports ORU's academic mission and ORU's whole-person approach to learning outcomes through its [ePortfolio system](#).

III. COURSE GOALS

- A. Understand the concept of worldview, the key components of the Christian worldview, and the similarities and differences among the Christian and various other competing worldviews.
- B. Understand the vital factors that inform a worldview and challenge him or her to examine currently held worldviews with the purpose of consciously determining what worldview he or she will articulate and effectively demonstrate in the real world to effect change upon the culture.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, I should be able to:

- 1. Define and explain differing definitions of worldview and topics by which one may delineate distinct worldviews.
- 2. Summarize the biblical plot that expresses the Christian worldview through divine and human action, emphasizing creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.
- 3. Inventory presuppositions and beliefs that inform a worldview.
- 4. Analyze worldviews in various philosophical and theological categories, especially those of the world's major religions, atheism, and agnosticism.
- 5. Identify and explain key differences between the Christian worldview and competing or contradictory non-Christian worldviews.
- 6. Understand ancient, medieval, modern, and postmodern trends in the Christian Worldview.
- 7. Summarize how new forms of Christian expression both shape and are shaped by various other worldviews and cultural factors.
- 8. Discuss persuasive and compelling reasons for acceptance of the Christian worldview and engage in practical apologetics in defense of Christianity.

V. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Textbook(s) and materials for the course are listed using standard [citation style](#) (APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, etc.). Since other styles may be used in disciplines other than the one used in this course or school, the [ORU Citing and Documenting Sources](#) pages offer a collection of styles students may choose from. This course asks that students be consistent in whatever style they use throughout the course.

The ORU Bookstore carries print as well as eTexts of assigned textbooks.

<http://www.bkstr.com/oralrobertsstore/home>

Required Materials

Textbook:

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: Harper Collins, 2000. ISBN: 9780060652920

Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door*. Intervarsity Press, 2009. ISBN 9780830838509

Other required materials:

None

Optional Materials

Textbooks:

Resources, suggested by the instructor and classmates during the course.

Other:

None

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. **Participation:** Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, and all other course activities is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. This counts as your attendance in the course. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. **Plagiarism:** The ORU Catalog explicitly addresses the issue of plagiarism. Make sure you know [ORU's policy on plagiarism](#) and [what is considered plagiarism](#).
3. **Privacy:** By law, students are entitled to privacy regarding their records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended and available in the [ORU University Catalog](#), sets forth requirements designed to protect the privacy of student education records. The law governs access to records maintained by educational institutions and the release of information from those records.
4. **Whole Person Assessment Requirements:**
 - a. Specify which, if any, Whole Person Assessment requirements there are for this course. The WPA requirements for this class are listed in the General Education Whole Person Assessment Handbook.
 - b. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.

B. School and/or Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Class Assignments**
 - a. Students need to have the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
 - b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.
2. **Late Work**
 - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and materials, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. The professor may not accept late work, or it may result in a lower grade. Computer or Internet malfunctions do not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it completed, edited, and proofread prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
 - b. Generally, assignments missed from a serious sickness or family crises can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work.
3. **Incompletes**

On rare occasions, the grade of "I" may be given for work that is incomplete at the time grades are given. It is given only after the instructor and the department chair or college dean approve a petition submitted by the student that his or her work is incomplete for good cause. Good cause typically consists of a catastrophic event in which the student is prevented from completing the course requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition through <http://petitions.oru.edu>, make up any incomplete work, and ask the instructor to submit a grade change to the registrar. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent session, the incomplete will automatically convert to an "F." For graduating seniors,

the degree will be awarded in the term that the student completes his or her course work, not the final term of enrollment.

C. Online Programs Policies and Procedures

1. **Communicating with your Instructor:** All email communication between students and faculty will be through their ORU.edu emails.
2. **Learning Community:** Online learning community is established through active participation in the threaded weekly discussions. The mutual exchange of ideas, information, and experiences is an essential part of the learning process, and students are encouraged to use the discussion forum as virtual classroom platform.
3. **ADA and Students with Disabilities:**
 - Click here (<http://www.brightspace.com/about/accessibility/>) to view Desire2Learn's "Accessibility Resources for Students with Disabilities."
 - Students requiring Disability Services from ORU, please click here: <https://goo.gl/QGoK4x>
 - Desire2Learn (D2L) Accessibility Guidelines and Checklist: <https://goo.gl/Ck4RwY>
 - D2L Accessibility Policy: <https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/>
4. **Useful Links for Online Students:**
 - [Student Learning Glossary](#)
 - Library: <http://library.oru.edu>.
 - D2L Helpdesk: d2lhelp@oru.edu
 - I.T. Student Helpdesk: studenthelpdesk@oru.edu
 - [Netiquette and Online Discussions: https://goo.gl/f744AY](https://goo.gl/f744AY)
 - Contact the University: please [fill out this online form](#). Please first contact your instructor for assistance with any matter specific to the course.

D. Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Evaluation Procedures:** The final grade will be based on forum discussions, projects, and a final exam. The weight of each item is included in the Course Calendar. Extra credit items are not offered in this course

Points	Category
190	Discussions
130	Projects
62.5	Quizzes
100	Final Exam
10	SOS

2. **Grading Scale:**
A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below.
3. **Other Policies and/or Procedures**
None

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

The Course Calendar shows the specific learning activities and assessments for this course. Further descriptions for activities and assessments are in their respective weeks in D2L. When applicable, ¥ Indicates this is a Whole Person Assessment item that is also submitted to the E-Portfolio system. † indicates this is a faith integration item tracked by the program.

WEEK	Topics	Assignments
Week 1	Elements of Worldview Types of Worldview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• C.S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity: Book I</i>• Sire, <i>Universe Next Door</i>, Chapter 1 and 2• Lecture Presentation Worldviews• Week 1 quizzes• Theism Worksheet – dropbox• Christian Theism Worksheet – dropbox• Discussion
Week 2	Deism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity: Book II</i>• Sire, Chapter 3• Deism Worksheet - dropbox• Discussion• Week 2 quizzes
Week 3	Rise of Western Humanism: Naturalism vs Christian Worldview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity: Book III</i>• Sire, Chapters 4• Atheistic Naturalism Worksheet - dropbox• Discussion• Week 3 quizzes
Week 4	Nihilism and Existentialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sire, Chapters 5-6• Existentialism Worksheet – dropbox• Discussion• Week 4 quizzes
Week 5	Modernism and Postmodernism in the Western World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sire, Chapter 9• Postmodernism Worksheet - dropbox• Discussion• Week 5 quiz
Week 6	Eastern Pantheistic Monism and New Age Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sire, Chapters 7 – 8• Worldview Essay Analysis - dropbox• Discussion• Week 6 quizzes
Week 7	Middle Eastern Worldviews: Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sire, Chapter 10• Islamic Theism Worksheet – dropbox• Discussion• Week 7 quiz• Final Exam

VIII. COURSE INVENTORY

For ORU's Course Objectives

LHUM 103

This course contributes to the ORU course objectives as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability	X			
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy		X		
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills		X		
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship		X		
4E	Leadership capacity			X	

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This syllabus is subject to change without notice up until the first day of the semester.

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