



## Course Syllabus

### LGEN 377 – Christian Worldview, Culture and Apologetics

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 teaches practical Christian apologetics as a response to these changes.

**Prerequisites:** (BLIT 111, BLIT 122, BIB 222, or BIB 261) and (THE 104 or THE 105) and (ART 103, ART 104, ART 307, DANP 125, DRAM 215, HUM 201, HUM 202, HUM 203, HUM 204, HUM 333, or MUS 130)

#### 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.

*Spiritually alive* Biblical Literacy; Spiritual Formation.

*Intellectually alert* Critical thinking, Creativity, and Aesthetic Appreciation; Global and Historical Perspectives; Information Literacy; Knowledge of the Physical and Natural World

*Physically disciplined* Healthy Lifestyle; Physically Disciplined Lifestyle

*Socially adept* Ethical Reasoning and Behavior; Intercultural Knowledge and Engagement; Written and Oral Communication; Leadership Capacity.

*Professionally competent* 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.

### III. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

This course is for ORU undergraduates, who are taking 300 and 400 number upper-level courses, according to their degree plan. LGEN 377 contributes 3 credits toward a student's required degree plan selection of 9 credits of "Scaffolded interdisciplinary Course." According to General Education requirements, this course, offered from the History, Humanities and Government department, meets the criteria of:

1. **Active Learning** – requires students to do meaningful learning activities and to think about what they are doing.
2. **Interdisciplinary** – solves problems from multiple perspectives for complex issues, including appreciation of content.
3. **Critical Thinking** – requires judgement; discernment, values, presuppositional understanding of facts, truth, and wisdom.

As a course on a Christian worldview in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, students will integrate scriptural, philosophical, and theological knowledge with communications skills appropriate to their major and field of practice.

### IV. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to 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. Additionally, students will 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.

### V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

**After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:**

1. Define and identify the conceptual components entailed in a "worldview."
2. Summarize the Christian metanarrative and the elements fundamental to a Christian worldview.
3. Evaluate major worldviews, including naturalism, theism, pantheism, panentheism, deism, and postmodernism.
4. Identify and explain key differences between the Christian worldview and non-Christian worldviews.
5. Discuss the intelligibility of the Christian worldview and engage in practical apologetics in defense of Christianity.

### VI. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Before you purchase your required textbook(s), click on the ORU Bookstore link to verify whether digital texts are provided as part of your Follett ACCESS course fee. <http://www.bkstr.com/oralrobertsstore/home>

#### Required Materials

##### Textbooks:

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001. ISBN: 978-0060652920 Digital: eISBN: 9780061947438

Samples, Kenneth. *A World of Difference: Putting Christianity's Truth-Claims to the Test*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007. ISBN: 978-0801068225 Digital: eISBN: 9781441247209

Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*. Intervarsity Press, 2020. 6th Edition. ISBN: 9780830849383 Digital eISBN: 9780830849390

**Other required materials:** None

## VII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. **Plagiarism:** The ORU Catalog explicitly addresses the issue of plagiarism. Make sure you know [ORU's policy on plagiarism](#) and [what is considered plagiarism](#).
2. **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.
3. **Whole Person Assessment Requirements:**
  - a. Specify which, if any, Whole Person Assessment requirements there are for this course.  
None for this course.
  - b. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.

### B. School and/or Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Participation:** Participation in each online class through discussion forums, assignments, and all other course activities count as your attendance in the course. Lack of participation can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.

### 5. Citations

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.

## 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, <https://goo.gl/dLHnnM>
  - 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](mailto:d2lhelp@oru.edu)
  - I.T. Student Helpdesk: [studenthelpdesk@oru.edu](mailto:studenthelpdesk@oru.edu)
  - [Netiquette and Online Discussions](#): <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.

Grade Weight	Category
30%	Forum Discussions
50%	Projects
<u>20%</u>	Quizzes
100%	

### 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

## VIII. COURSE CALENDAR

The Course Calendar shows the specific learning activities and assessments for this course, along with their respective grade weights. The far-right column lists the Course Objectives (CO) that support the corresponding Assessment in column 2. Further descriptions for activities and assessments are in their respective weeks in D2L. When applicable, ¥ Indicates this is a Whole Person Assessment item. † indicates this is a faith integration item tracked by the program.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Introduction to Worldview Studies</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	11	--	--
	Forum 1: The Importance of Worldviews	3	5%	1
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Components of a Worldview</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	7	--	--
	Forum 2: Origin, Meaning, Morality & Destiny	3	5%	5
	Project 2: Testing Worldviews	8	10%	1
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Worldview Analysis</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	13	--	--
	Forum 3: Appraising Worldviews	3	5%	1, 3, 4
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Worldview Analysis (Cont.)</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	7	--	--
	Forum 4: Worldviews in Culture	3	5%	3
	Project 4: The Panorama of Worldviews	8	10%	1, 3, 4
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Elements of a Christian Worldview</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	7	--	--
	Forum 5: A Christian View of Things	3	5%	2
	Quiz 5: The World of Worldviews	6	20%	3, 4
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Mere Christianity</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	6	--	--
	Forum 6: Reflections on <i>Mere Christianity</i>	3	5%	2
	Project 6: Lewis Book Response	7	10%	2, 5
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Christian Apologetics</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>CO</b>
	Read/View/Listen	5	--	--
	Project 7: "This I Believe" Essay †	10	20%	2, 3, 4, 5
<b>Course Total</b>	Total estimated hours based upon an average of 16 hours per week for 7 weeks	116	100%	

## IX. COURSE INVENTORY

For ORU's University Outcomes

### LGEN 377: Worldview, Culture and Apologetics

This course contributes to ORU's university outcomes 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.

ORU defines each outcome and proficiencies/capacities listed below in this [Gen Ed Outcomes paper](#).

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b>				
1A	Biblical literacy			X	
1B	Spiritual Formation		X		
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b>				
2A	Critical thinking, creativity, and aesthetics	X			
2B	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2C	Information literacy		X		
2D	Knowledge of the physical and natural world		X		
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b>				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b>				
4A	Ethical reasoning and behavior	X			
4B	Intercultural knowledge and			X	
4C	Written and Oral Communication	X			
4D	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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