

# Philosophy & Worldview Course Syllabus

<http://philosophyandworldview.wordpress.com>

Class	Week	Topic	Issues	Reading/Resources
<b>December 2008</b>				
1	12/10	<b>Why Philosophy &amp; Worldview Matters to Everyone... but especially Christians</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Course summary, method</li> <li>▪ Faith Seeking Understanding</li> <li>▪ Scriptural Accounts</li> <li>▪ The Challenge of Secularism</li> <li>▪ Cultural Velocity, Immediacy, Progress</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Check out the blog! <a href="http://philosophyandworldview.wordpress.com">http://philosophyandworldview.wordpress.com</a></li> <li>▪ Mars Hill Audio Letter</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nagel, <i>What Does It All Mean?</i></li> <li>▪ Moreland, <i>Love Your God with All Your Mind</i></li> <li>▪ Moreland and Craig, <i>Philosophical Foundations</i></li> <li>▪ Articles</li> </ul>
2	12/17	<b>Basics of Philosophy (Logic, Argumentation, Rhetoric)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Logic</li> <li>▪ Argument</li> <li>▪ Basic philosophical questions</li> <li>▪ Reading Stuff</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Max Shulman, "Love is a Fallacy"</li> <li>▪ Monty Python's "Argument Clinic"</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moreland and Craig, <i>Philosophical Foundations</i></li> <li>▪ Weston, <i>A Rulebook for Arguments</i></li> <li>▪ Adler, <i>How to Read a Book</i></li> </ul>
N/A	12/24	<b>No Class... Christ is Born!</b>	N/A	Snuggle up with some philosophical prose of your choice—crack that spine! devour those leaves!
N/A	12/31	<b>No Class... Countdown!</b>	N/A	
<b>January/February 2009</b>				
3-4	1/7 1/14	<b>Human Dignity, Personhood, Identity, and the Meaning of Body and Soul</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What does it mean to be human?</li> <li>▪ Problem of Personal Identity</li> <li>▪ What are Humans For?</li> <li>▪ Immediacy/Technology</li> <li>▪ Death</li> <li>▪ Mind/Body Problem</li> <li>▪ Narcissism/Self-Help/Therapy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wendell Berry (selections)</li> <li>▪ Marion Montgomery (selections)</li> <li>▪ Shoemaker and Swinburne, <i>Personal Identity</i></li> <li>▪ Postman, <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i></li> <li>▪ Buber, <i>I and Thou</i></li> <li>▪ Wolterstorff, <i>Lament for a Son</i></li> <li>▪ Kass, <i>Being Human</i></li> <li>▪ Lewis, <i>The Abolition of Man</i></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.STR.org">http://www.STR.org</a></li> </ul>
5-8	1/21 1/28 2/4 2/11	<b>Morality, Ethics and Virtue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ethical Theories (Relativism, Utilitarianism, Egoism, Absolutism)</li> <li>▪ Abortion</li> <li>▪ Social Justice</li> <li>▪ Bioethics</li> <li>▪ Virtue Ethics</li> <li>▪ Eudaimonia: The Good Life</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beckwith, <i>Defending Life</i> (selections)</li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.STR.org">http://www.STR.org</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Relativism: Feet Planted Firmly In Mid-Air</i> (selections)</li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.CBC-network.org">http://www.CBC-network.org</a></li> <li>▪ The President's Council on Bioethics</li> <li>▪ Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i></li> <li>▪ Alasdair MacIntyre, <i>After Virtue</i></li> </ul>
9	2/18	<b>Philosophical Fragments, or Grab-Bag/Miscellany Night!</b>	<b>Everything.</b>	<b>Lots.</b>

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10	2/25	<p><b>Epistemology: Knowledge, Truth, Plausibility, Possibility and Perception</b></p> <p><b>Ontology: Metaphysics, Existence, Truth and Reality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How do we know things?</li> <li>▪ Theories of Truth</li> <li>▪ Postmodernism</li> <li>▪ Skepticism</li>   <li>▪ What exists?</li> <li>▪ Properties and Substances</li> <li>▪ Other minds</li> <li>Free Will and Determinism</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moreland and Craig, <i>Philosophical Foundations</i></li> </ul>
<b>March 2009</b>				
11	3/4	<b>Words, Language and Meaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic Linguistics</li> <li>▪ Words and Sounds</li> <li>▪ Theories of Meaning</li> <li>▪ Reading and Writing</li> <li>▪ Literature and Poetry</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lewis, <i>Studies in Words</i></li> <li>▪ Owen Barfield (selections)</li> <li>▪ Gallager and Lundin, <i>Literature Through the Eyes of Faith</i></li> <li>▪ Various articles/authors</li> </ul>
12	3/11	<b>Popular Philosophy: Art, Music and Film</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "What <i>is</i> art? Is <i>art</i> art?"</li> <li>▪ Art in Culture</li> <li>▪ Meaning in Art</li> <li>▪ Pop culture</li> <li>▪ Literature and Poetry</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wendell Berry (selections)</li> <li>▪ Schaeffer, <i>The God Who Is There</i> Trilogy</li> </ul>
13	3/18	<b>Philosophy of Religion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early, Medieval, Modern, Contemporary</li> <li>▪ God's Existence</li> <li>▪ Problem of Moral and Natural Evil</li> <li>▪ Omni-(potence)(science)(benevolence)</li> <li>▪ Christian Particularism: Jesus as the Only Way</li> <li>▪ Trinity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Various articles/authors</li> <li>▪ Copleston, <i>History of Philosophy</i></li> <li>▪ Ganssle, <i>Thinking About God</i></li> <li>▪ Plantinga, <i>God, Freedom &amp; Evil</i></li> <li>▪ Wierenga, <i>The Nature of God</i></li> </ul>
14	3/25	<b>Christianity Among Other Worldviews</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comparative Religion</li> <li>▪ Science</li> <li>▪ Technology</li> <li>▪ Modernity and Postmodernity</li> <li>▪ Misc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copleston, <i>History of Philosophy</i></li> <li>▪ Percy, <i>Total Truth</i></li> <li>▪ Gay, <i>The Way of the (Modern) World</i></li> <li>▪ Abraham Kyuper (selections)</li> </ul>