



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**Course: MI223 – Christian Worldview**  
**Instructor: Jeremy Loseth**  
**Fall 2018**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
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### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

In a society where truth is looked at as subjective and fluid, the word “worldview” has become culturally relevant. However, the understanding and importance of the term has been cheapened as it gets thrown around in conversation. There is much to be learned from a careful study of worldviews, and many things that we have hidden in our subconscious can be discovered as a result.

This class, then, is a study of the principles and truths that govern the Christian’s view of the world and his/her place in it. The development of a biblical way of thinking about our world and the important issues of life is central. This course will consider valid answers to questions raised about the Christian faith, as well as those about various other worldviews.

### ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis (New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1955, revised 2001).  
**224 pages**

*Why You Think The Way You Do* by Glenn S. Sunshine (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009). **202 pages**

### ***THE BIG QUESTION***

*What are the central beliefs and values that make up the way that I understand and interpret the world?*

### ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

- 1) The student should be able to explain the core tenets of the major worldviews
- 2) The student will discover which central beliefs make up their own particular worldview
- 3) The student will be strengthened in their ability to navigate discussions of “the big questions” with others who do not share the same outlook on life

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Textbook Reading and Summary Paper – 30%**

- The student is expected to read the assigned textbooks in their entirety by their respected due dates. After the books have been completed, the student is required to submit a **2-3 page** summary paper that highlights the positives and negatives of each book. Keep this succinct, focusing only on the broader aspects of each book. The due dates are as follows:
- *Mere Christianity* (10%) – Due Oct. 23rd
- *Why You Think The Way You Do* (10%) – Due Nov. 28th
- Book Summaries (10%) – Due Dec. 11th

***Due Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>***

### **Album Interpretation – 15%**

- The student will choose an album to listen to from the attached list, listening carefully for the messages and meanings within the lyrics (or album as a whole). Be aware of both the specific and general message that is being put forward. The focus of this assignment is to get the individual thinking about the meaning of the song/album. Why are the lyrics composed in such a way? Is the album a simple compilation of random songs or does it have an overarching theme?
- The student will need to look up the lyrics and song listings online. Read over the lyrics while listening to the album, but resist the urge to google for meanings.
- A **3-4 page** paper that explains the interpretation of each song and the album as a whole will be required. This is an informal paper, meaning first person usage is permitted. A class discussion will take place for each album that is listened to.
- Albums:
  - mewithoutYou – *Ten Stories*
  - As Cities Burn – *Come Now Sleep*
  - The Who – *Tommy*
  - Maddie and Tae – *Start Here*
  - Death Cab for Cutie – *Transatlanticism*

***Due Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>***

### **Personal Worldview Paper – 25%**

- In this **8-10 page** paper the student will be expected to outline their personal worldview. Specify your core presuppositions upon which their respected worldview is built upon. It is of paramount importance that they are able to not only identify their own presuppositions and bias', but understand how those shape their understanding of the world around them. Quite simply, they are asking themselves why they think the way they do. Consider:

- What the student believes in at a foundational level
  - Why they believe this to be true, and
  - How they came to this conclusion.
- The student does not need to be too specific, as the space will be quickly taken up. An outline will be provided to assist in this process.

***Due Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>***

**Class Participation – 10%**

- Each student is expected to contribute in meaningful, constructive ways throughout the class. This means contributing to conversations, debates, and class discussions. Simply nodding and saying, “I agree” is not adequate for getting by. Asking questions and backing up your statements with valid reasoning will be more of what is being looked for.

***Due Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>***

**Final Exam – 25%**

- There will be an exam that recaps what has been covered in class. The student will have no problem if they pay attention, take notes, and diligently study.

***Due Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>***

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/19

**LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/19

**Reading: 426 pages**

**Writing: 13-17 pages**

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chamberlain, Paul. *Can We Be Good Without God?: A Conversation About Truth, Morality, Culture and a Few Other Things that Matter*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Geisler, Norman L. *Is Man the Measure?: An Evaluation of Contemporary Humanism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1983.

Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. London, Fontana Books, 1955.

Moreland, J.P. *Love Your God With All Your Mind*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1997.

Naugle, David K. *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002.

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Smith, C. Fred. *Developing a Biblical Worldview*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015.

Walsh, Brian J. and J. Richard Middleton. *The Transforming Vision*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.