



Nipawin Bible College
GE2223 Cults and other False Teachings
Dr. John Loge
Fall 2021
Three Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The apostle Paul warned the recipients of his letters many times about false teachers. There were apostates in his day, and he advised that there would be many more to come—even calling them “doctrines of demons.” Here we are, 2000 years later, and was he ever right! All around us there are teachings which masquerade as “Christian” but are pointing to another savior, other holy books, and false prophets. The modern Christian needs to know his or her Bible and its essential doctrines well so as to resist the ever-growing number of religious systems which like the ethics of Christianity but not the Triune God of the Bible.

We need to know the core teachings of Scripture and be able to use them to refute the attacks of the evil one—and win the lost to a Savior who died for all sinners—including those trapped in wrong religious beliefs.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible. (Any translation of the Bible, NOT a paraphrase)

Martin, Walter. *Kingdom of the Cults Handbook*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2019.

THE BIG QUESTION

How can I learn about false teachings so as to develop a desire for the salvation of those ensnared in them and solidify my understanding of orthodox Biblical theology in the process?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) Know the essential doctrines of Evangelical Christianity well so as to be able to evaluate core doctrines of any belief system.
- 2) Develop a grief over the lost nature of those entangled in false religion.
- 3) Learn the basic tenets of several cults who masquerade as Christian sects.
- 4) Evaluate some common North American “Christian” denominations as to their core beliefs.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes (40%)

- All quizzes will be written at the beginning of each of classes two through nine based on the assigned reading for that week (8 quizzes total).
- The student is encouraged to bring any hand-written notes to class for the quiz. The notes must be written by the student (not someone else's notes) based on his/her own study of the textbook.
- Each quiz is worth 5% of the final mark, for a total of **40% of the final mark for quizzes (lowest mark will be dropped).**

DUE: See course schedule

Scripture Assignment (20%)

- The student has the choice of one of the following options:
 - a. Anti-Gnostic teachings from 1 John** It is said that 1 John was written to combat one of the first cults/false teachings the church ever encountered. What was "Gnosticism" and how does 1 John address this heretical teaching?
 - b. Pauline teachings on heresy** The Apostle Paul warned the recipients of his letters extensively regarding false teaching. Doing a review of his epistles, what did he teach the 1st century church in this regard?
 - c. Revelation 2-3** Jesus addressed several false teachings in his warnings and exhortations to the seven churches in Revelation. What did He say and how can we learn from these warnings in the 21st century?
- The paper must be 5 pages long to earn a passing mark, 7 pages to earn a better mark.
- A minimum of 5 sources must be used, with at least three of these from the NBC library.

DUE: October 27th

Select Group Study (20%)

- The student will choose from a list of religious groups (Seventh Day Adventists, Hutterites, Huldemans, Quakers, and Amish) and prepare a minimum 5-page report on:
 - on its core teachings,
 - what theological errors exist,
 - come to a conclusion as to whether (based on class definitions and discussions) the group should be considered a cult or is a truly Christian group with some unusual teachings.
- The paper should use at least four academic sources (no more than two online).

DUE: November 24th

Final Exam (20%)

The final exam will cover all quiz material, the class lecture material, and the "select groups" presented on the last day of class.

DUE: Exam Week

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **at the beginning of class on the date assigned.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2021-22.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2021-22.

Reading: 344; Writing: 10 pages

COURSE OUTLINE:

Class Date	Class Material	Textbook Reading Due (For class quiz 8:30 a.m.)	Assignment Due (8:30 a.m.)
1. Sept. 29	The real currency—orthodox Biblical doctrine and what is a cult?		
2. Oct. 6	Jehovah's Witnesses and the United Church of Canada	Chapters 1 & 4	
3. Oct. 13	Mormons and the Anglican Church of Canada	Chapters 2 & 6	
4. Oct. 20	Baha'i and The Masonic Lodge/Shriners	Chapters 3 & 10	
5. Oct. 27	Non-biblical teachings in Roman Catholicism	Chapters 8 & 17	Scripture Assignment
6. Nov. 3	Hinduism/Transcendental Meditation/Yoga/Eastern Mysticism	Chapters 15 & Appendix B	
7. Nov. 17	The New Age, Frank Peretti audio message	Chapters 5 & 11	
8. Nov. 24	Spiritism (including Native Spirituality)/Ancestor worship/Satanism/The Occult	Chapters 7 & Appendix A	Select Group Study Assignment
9. Dec. 1	Scientology/Christian Science/Armstrongism/Unity School/Unification Church	Chapters 12 & 13	
10. Dec. 8	The Emergent Church/Prosperity Theology	Chapters 14 & 18	
Exam Week			Final Exam

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Edwards, Linda. *A Brief Guide to Beliefs: Ideas, Theologies, Mysteries, and Movements*. Louisville, KY, 2001. **290 EDW**

Gomes, Alan W. *Unmasking the Cults*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

Hodge, Bodie & Roger Patterson, ed. *World Religions and Cults: Counterfeits of Christianity*, vol. 1. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2015. **290 BOD**

Hodge, Bodie & Roger Patterson, ed. *World Religions and Cults: Moralistic, Mythical and Mysticism Religions*, vol. 2. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2016. **290 BOD**

Hodge, Bodie & Roger Patterson, ed. *World Religions and Cults: Atheistic and Humanistic Religions*, vol. 3. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2016. **290 BOD**

Jenkins, Philip. *Mystics and Messiahs: Cults and new Religions in American History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Martin, Walter. *Kingdom of the Cults*, 6th ed. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2019. **290 MAR**

Martin, Walter. *Kingdom of the Cults Handbook*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2019.

Nichols, Larry A., George A. Mather and Alvin J. Schmidt. *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects, and World Religions*, revised and updated edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. **R 290.03 NIC**

Rhodes, Ron. *Reason from the Scriptures with Catholics*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2000. **282 RHO**

Rhodes, Ron. *Find It Quick: Handbook on Cults & New Religions*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2005. **290 RHO**

White, James R. *What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur'an*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2013. **297.1 WHI**