Dallas Bible Theological Institute

Topics in Apologetics, Ethics, & Worldview – AEW 102

January 9, 2023–May 12, 2023

**Tuesday, 8:30 PM – 9:20 PM CST**

**T. D. Desso**

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**I. Course Description:**

A general survey of concepts and major topics in apologetics, ethics, and worldview.

**II. Course Objectives:**

At the end of the semester students should:

1. Be able to explain the biblical basis for the study of each discipline.
2. Gain a basic knowledge about the major concepts commonly discussed in the disciplines of apologetics, ethics, and worldview.
3. Gain a basic knowledge of topics commonly discussed in the disciplines.
4. Be able to identify elements that make each discipline unique.
5. Be able to produce written works that demonstrate a basic understanding of those concepts and topics.

**III. Required Texts:**

* The Bible (CSB, ESV, NASB)
* Other readings shall be provided by the instructor

**IV. Course Grade Requirements:**

1. Attendance – 45 points (2.5 points/class)
2. Weekly Written Responses – 30 points (2 points/response)
3. Final – 25 points

**Weekly Written Responses:** Each response should be no shorter than 100 words, and with each response, use scriptural evidence to support your position. I am not looking for any particular position, rather in-depth and original engagement with the question. Each response is due before class begins.

**Final: (Due May 12)** Your final will be a 4-pg. argumentative, research paper that explores a relevant and controversial topic. Your paper should consider opposing views, differing worldviews and ethics, concerning the topic, but you should also clearly defend your own position. Your paper should include adequate scriptural support and at least 5 other sources. 4 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font (~1,200 words)

Topics to choose from: abortion, gay marriage, gender identity, corporate pollution, religious freedom, Black Lives Matter Movement, separation of church and state, etc.

* Assignments will be available through LearnDash, and all assignments need to be submitted through LearnDash.
* [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/\*\*\*\*\*\*\*534?pwd=QWlKWnVndmtDaURUSWl2d3VrdnlDZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/*******534?pwd=QWlKWnVndmtDaURUSWl2d3VrdnlDZz09)
* Meeting ID: 848 9552 2815

**V. Other Course Requirements and Information:**

1. **Academic Integrity:**
   1. ***Warning on Plagiarism***: Plagiarism, in simple terms, is the use of another person’s ideas, also called “intellectual property,” without credit to the source of the idea.
2. **Attendance** – Virtual attendance is required. There are only 12 classes in this course, so even if you miss one class, it will tremendously affect your progress in the class.
3. **Special Needs:** Students who have impairments, disabilities, etc. that can affect their matriculation through the course should notify the instructor as soon as possible.
4. **Recording class lectures:** The instructor will record (video and audio) lectures at his discretion. Any student who wishes to record the lectures must notify the instructor beforehand for permission. All student recordings should be for personal use only and should not be shared outside of class.
5. **Late Work**– All assignments should be submitted through Google Classroom, which attaches a day and time stamp to submitted work. Each assignment will have a due date with a time. Assignments may be turned in late but will be penalized 5 points per day. You may also submit work early.
6. **Respect –** In our class discussions, it is vital that each student demonstrates respect to all persons as well as to the learning environment. The instructor will also show respect to all students. This class will be a place for us to discuss and work through these topics without fear of ridicule.
7. **Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course shall be the following:

**Pass:**

90-100%=A

80-89=B

70-79=C

**Fail:**

60-69=D

0-59=F

1. **Amending the syllabus:** The instructor does not intend to alter the syllabus, but the instructor reserves the right to do so in order to fill the requirements of the course.

**Intellectual Property/Etiquette:**

All recorded class content (in any form) is the intellectual property of the instructor. Sharing class content with anyone not enrolled in the current course without the express permission of the instructor is a violation of the instructor’s intellectual property rights.

**Tech Requirements**

This course is online, via zoom, so reliable internet is necessary.

Please contact the instructor at (817)884-7959 immediately if you encounter difficulty with your classroom connection.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

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| **Date** | **In Class Topic** | **Homework** |
| **Week 1**: Tues, Jan. 10 | Overview & Topics  **Worldview**: Definition & Philosophy | Explain the connection between Php. 2:5 and the study of Worldview (Response due next class) |
| **Week 2**: Tues, Jan. 17 | **Worldview**: Definition & Philosophy (cont.)  Topic: Revelation | What role does revelation play in forming a “Christian worldview”? (Dt. 8:3; Mt. 16:17) |
| **Week 3**: Tues, Jan. 24 | **Worldview**: Jewish Worldview | How can we benefit from knowledge of the ancient Jewish way of thinking? |
| **Week 4**: Tues, Oct. 4 | **Worldview**: Biblical Worldview  Topic: Pluralism | How can the biblical story teach us our purpose? |
| **Week 5**: Tues, Jan. 31 | **Worldview**: Biblical Worldview (cont.) | Why is human depravity so fundamental to a biblical worldview? (Gn. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23; I Jn. 1:8) |
| **Week 6**: Tues, Feb. 7 | **Worldview**: Advantages of Diverse Worldviews | To what degree does God value cultural identity and diversity? |
| **Week 7**: Tues, Feb. 14 | **Apologetics**: The Historical & Biblical Purposes for the Discipline | Explain the believer’s role and duty to give a defense of the faith. |
| **Week 8**: Tues, Feb. 21 | **Apologetics**: The Historical & Biblical Purposes for the Discipline (cont.) | To what degree is secular philosophy beneficial to Christian studies? |
| **Week 9**: Tues, Feb. 28 | **Apologetics**: Existence of God | Which argument do you think is the strongest and why? |
| **Week 10**: Tues, Mar. 7 | **Apologetics**: Existence of God (cont.)  Topic: Problem of Evil |  |
| Mar. 13-17 | Spring Break |  |
| **Week 11**: Tues, Mar. 21 | **Apologetics**: Reliability of the Christian Faith—The Text & the Resurrection | If you were not a Christian, what would be the most effective appeal to convert you and why? |
| **Week 12**: Tues, Mar. 28 | **Apologetics**: Reliability of the Christian Faith—The Text & the Resurrection (cont.  Topic: Denominationalism |  |
| **Week 13**: Tues, Apr. 4 | **Ethics**: Sources for Determining Morality | Should all humans hold the same definition of *morality*? Why or why not? |
| **Week 14**: Tues, Apr. 11 | **Ethics**: Biblical Ideals of Justice  Topics: Systemic poverty, the vulnerable in society | To what degree should we model our current society after that of ancient Israel? |
| **Week 15**: Tues, Apr. 18 | **Ethics**: Biblical Ideals of Justice (cont.)  Topics: BLM, CRT, & Woke | What are your general thoughts on how the U. S. practices justice and fairness? |
| **Week 16**: Tues, Apr. 25 | Topics Concerning Religion: Religious Freedom, Miracles, Cults | What do you think is the most dangerous cult today and why? |
| **Week 17**: Tues, May 2 | Topics Concerning Life, Personhood, and Privacy: Creation, Abortion, Sexuality | Explain your position on the legality of abortion. |
| **Week 18**: Tues, May 9 | Topics Concerning Society: CRT, Christian Political Involvement, Separation of Church and State |  |