



STORY: Introduction to the Christian Worldview (BIBL 1103)

Spring 2024 (Jan 10-April 24) – Wednesdays 6:00-9:00 pm

Lakeview Church of Christ - Tacoma, WA

Instructor: Mark McLean, Ed.D.

markmclean640@gmail.com 360-621-6385

I. OC Mission Statement:

Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

II. Course Description

This course will introduce students to the Christian worldview. Basic life questions will be explored in light of the biblical story as a whole. Students will learn the basic content of the Bible and methods for responsibly interpreting the Old and New Testaments within a Christian framework. The course will also explore basic Christian beliefs—the Godhead, creation, sin, redemption through Jesus, and the church. This course will compare the biblical worldview with other worldviews, most notably secular humanism.

III. Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy

This course is an Oklahoma Christian University Bible course offered for credit through the Northwest School of Discipleship (NWSD), Tigard, Oregon. NWSD is a church-based educational initiative that seeks to help transform believers into the image of Christ through offering biblical courses grounded in the three essential features of discipleship: Knowledge, Affection, Obedience.

IV. Course Goals:

1. **Understand** the Bible as a unified whole and a coherent story.
2. **Interpret** Scripture historically, literally, and theologically.
3. **Articulate** basic Christian beliefs about God, humans, and the world.
4. **Analyze** other cultural worldviews in terms of the Christian worldview.
5. **Explain** how one's personal mission and calling fits within God's mission.

V. Course Textbooks (Required)

- Natasha Crain, *Faithfully Different*. Harvest House Publishers, 2022. (ISBN 978-0-7369-8429-4)
- The Holy Bible, ESV. Crossway Publishers, 2001. (Another reputable translation may also be used by the student, but memory work will be tested from the ESV.)

VI. Course Requirements

1. **Participation and Attendance** – Participation is based on completion of assigned exercises, evidence of preparation for class, and a general assessment of classroom presence, involvement, effort, improvement, and achievement. There are no excused absences, but all students are allowed one unexcused absence. Each absence after the first will result in lowering the participation grade by 10%. Four or more absences may result in failure of the course.
2. **Memory Work** – A list of Scriptures will be memorized as a part of this course, in addition to memorizing some helpful lists. The memory work will be tested on the daily quizzes, the mid-term exam, and the final exam. The details are found in the “Memory Work” handout.
3. **Daily Quizzes** -- Most class days will begin with a quiz over that week’s required readings from our textbook, *Faithfully Different*, that day’s memory work, and the assigned readings of Scripture. Daily Quizzes will not be given on exam days. There will be no “make up” quizzes. Instead, the professor will drop the lowest quiz score (including a zero) when averaging quiz grades.

As you read the assigned Scripture readings, consider these questions:

- What KIND of text is this? (a letter, poem, story, law, etc.)
 - What is happening in the text? What is the plot, who are the main characters, and what is the setting?
 - In your opinion, what does this text tell us about God? About humanity? About the world? What does this text contribute to a biblical worldview?
4. **Reflective Essays** -- Three reflective essays are required in this course. Reflective essays are NOT research papers where you report what others have written, but rather are your own thoughtful personal reflections upon a given subject or text. You will draw from your own knowledge and experience, so no footnotes are required. Biblical quotations are encouraged when appropriate, with the reference given after the Scripture: (John 3:16, ESV). Essays will be at least 700 words each. Proper English grammar, spelling, and conventions are to be utilized. You may use the first person (“I”) since you are writing your own reflections. Refer to the handout on Reflective Essays for further instructions, including the topics covered. The three essays will be 20% of your total class grade. All

three essays must be completed to pass the course. Assignments are due at the beginning of a class period; late work will be penalized one letter grade per calendar day late, beginning with the day due.

5. **Exams** -- A mid-term exam and a final exam will be given. The final exam will be comprehensive. Students should plan to take the midterm and final exams on the day they are scheduled. Any exceptions require the approval of the professor *before* the exams are given on the dates scheduled.

VII. Course Grading

| | |
|---|-----|
| Mid-term exam | 15% |
| Final exam | 20% |
| Reflective Essays | 20% |
| Participation and attendance | 10% |
| Daily quizzes over readings and memory work | 35% |

90-100% =A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, and below 60% is failing.

Oklahoma Christian University Policies

Since this course is accredited through Oklahoma Christian University, the following statements apply to this course:

Oklahoma Christian University Policy on Academic Honesty

Cheating

Cheating on examinations, assignments, roll sheets or other course related work or activities undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Cheating is one form of academic dishonesty. Cheating triggers the Consequences for Academic Dishonesty.

Plagiarism

One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another's ideas, words, or materials as one's own and/or the failure to accurately credit the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of

Oklahoma Christian University. Plagiarism is one form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism triggers the following consequences.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

1. First offense: the mandatory consequence for academic dishonesty with regard to an examination or assignment is zero (0) credit. Faculty have discretion to assign appropriate consequences for academic dishonesty other than on examinations or assignments. Faculty must send documentation of the first offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the CAO, and the Dean of Students.
2. Second offense: the mandatory consequence for a second incident of academic dishonesty, in the same course, during the same term, is a failing grade (F) in the course. Faculty shall provide documentation of the second offense to the appropriate academic leader, dean, CAO, and the Dean of Students.
3. Appeal: A student accused of academic dishonesty may appeal the determination using the process for Grade Appeals, found below.
4. Multiple Course Violations: When a student has been academically dishonest in more than one (1) course the Academic Appeals Committee may assign consequences up to and including suspension from the University. The Academic Appeals Committee will inform the CAO and the Dean of Students in writing of consequences imposed and will report annually on its activities to the University's Academic Affairs Committee. 5. Faculty should maintain the highest standards of academic honesty both in and out of the classroom. Faculty must report and apply the rules regarding academic dishonesty to the appropriate channels.

Copyright/Fair Use notice

Course materials provided or made available to students in class, online or via email are the property of Oklahoma Christian University, the instructor and other copyright holders and are made available for the sole use of students enrolled in this class during the semester in which the student is enrolled. Students may keep one copy (print or digital) for personal use only and may not distribute the materials in any media format to any person without the express permission of the Oklahoma Christian University and the instructor. Original materials posted and authored by students may not be distributed under any circumstances.

Sources of Help

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Tutoring | Student Success 405.425.5907 www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/ |
| Writing Lab | Writer's Block http://writersblock.oc.edu/ |
| Research Help | Library 405.425.5312 |

Ask a Librarian (libanswers.oc.edu)
library.oc.edu

Information Support Central
Technology 405.425.5555
 support.oc.edu/home

Blackboard Help Link in Blackboard (usually on left side)

Calling & Career Day Six (located directly below Admissions)
Office Career counseling, strengths analysis, resume and portfolio building,
 interview mastery, network building, career search/ landing, and more.
 405.425.5961
 www.oc.edu/daysix

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Sharon Powell (405-425-1876) before your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, Sharon Powell, and the Office of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this course.

Testing Center

A number of special circumstances may require students to take a test outside of the classroom. You may qualify to use the Testing Center if: 1) you have testing accommodations that allow for additional support; 2) you are a student athlete and are unable to test during the scheduled time; or 3) other circumstances that prohibit you from taking an exam in the classroom environment. Please contact studentsuccess@oc.edu for more information or questions.

Policy and Procedures Addressing Sexual Harassment (Title IX)

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community unequivocally committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and providing a campus environment that is free of unlawful discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct. [OC's Policy and Procedures Addressing Sexual Misconduct](#) are compliant with Title IX, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Sexual harassment is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trusts, and interferes with learning and productive work. Refer to the Student Handbook in [MyOC](#) for more information.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of sexual misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy to the Title IX Coordinator:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Title IX Coordinator | 405.425.6463 |
| Tamie Willis | titleix@oc.edu |

Students have access to confidential services through OC's Counseling Center.

OC Counseling Center 405.425.5250



STORY: Introduction to the Christian Worldview (BIBL 1103)

Spring 2024 (Jan 10-April 24) – Wednesdays 6:00-9:00pm

Dr. Mark McLean, Lakeview Church of Christ - Tacoma, WA

Course Schedule

| Date | Natasha Crain Text, pages... | Scripture Readings Focus Questions: <i>What do these Scriptures say about...</i> | Class Topics | Notes: |
|--------|------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Jan 10 | | | Worldview Introduction. The Story of the OT, Part 1 (The Pentateuch) | |
| Jan 17 | 9-33 | Genesis 1-11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God? • Man? | The Story of the OT, Part 2 (Joshua through Solomon) | |
| Jan 24 | 35-48 | Josh 1-4; I Sam 15-19; II Sam 11-12; Ecl 1-3, 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's faithfulness? • Man's sin? | The Story of the OT, Part 3 (after Solomon) | |
| Jan 31 | 49-63 | I Kg 12, 18-19; Mic 6; Is 6, 53 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's faithfulness? • Man's sin? | The Story of the NT, Part 1 (The Gospels) | Essay 1 due |
| Feb 7 | No Class | Winter Break | | |
| Feb 14 | 64-87 | Mt 5-9, 16-18, 26-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' power? • Jesus' goodness? | The Story of the NT, Part 2 (Acts) | |

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---|--|---------------------|
| Feb 21 | 89-109 | Acts 1-3, 9-11, 16-17 The Gospel as it was lived in Acts? | The Story of the New Testament, Part 3 (The Epistles) | |
| Feb 28 | 111-130 | Col. 1-4; Titus 1-3; I John 1-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the Epistles anchored to Jesus? | The Doctrine of God | Midterm Exam |
| Mar 6 | 133-151 | Dt 5-6, 9-13: Ps 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the holiness of God with his love? | The Doctrine of Jesus | |
| Mar 13 | 153-170 | John 1-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was Jesus? • What was he like? | The Doctrine of Man and the Doctrine of Salvation | Essay 2 due |
| Mar 20 | No Class | Spring Break | | |
| Mar 27 | 171-189 | Romans 1-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is man's spiritual problem? • How is man justified? | The Doctrine of the Church and the Christian life | |
| Apr 3 | 193-214 | Ephesians 1-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the church? • What is the relationship between faith and morals? | Open discussion on the Christian Worldview | |
| Apr 10 | 215-236 | Revelation 1-7, 20-22 | Eschatology, the Doctrine of the last things | Essay 3 due |
| Apr 17 | No Quiz | Review for final exam | The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and the Inspiration and Authority of Scripture | |
| Apr 24 | | Final Exam, 6-8 PM | | |