

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Grade level: 12
Course length: 2 semesters

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PHILOSOPHY AND DESCRIPTION

The overall goal of this course is to help prepare seniors for the different presuppositions people have, especially those they will be dealing with in college and beyond. While a variety of topics are covered, no topics are off-limits for these young adults.

The course is based on the textbook App, *Understanding the Times*, by Summit Ministries and David Noebel. It surveys the different worldviews in our society today and how they compare to a biblical worldview. Specifically it compares how different worldviews deal with theology, psychology, philosophy, law, politics, ethics, biology and sociology. In addition to the text, students will watch a variety of videos from experts in the various disciplines from Summit Ministries, the developers of the curriculum, Focus on the Family, who developed "The Truth Project", and other sources. The students will be required to take field trips to public locations where they will interview strangers about their worldviews and determine what each person's primary presuppositions are.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to...

- Describe the main differences between Christianity and the following worldviews: Islam, Secular Humanism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age), Marxism and Postmodernism
- Ask the right questions to identify the presuppositions in other people's worldviews
- Converse or argue a point without relying on logical fallacies
- Recognize truth from error

OUTLINE

- I. First quarter
 - A. Christianity
 - B. Islam
 - C. Secularism

- II. Second quarter
 - A. Marxism
 - B. New Spirituality
 - C. Postmodernism

- III. Third Quarter
 - A. Theology
 - B. Philosophy
 - C. Ethics
 - D. Psychology
 - E. Sociology

- IV. Fourth Quarter
 - A. Meaning at the movies
 - i. Analyzing Hollywood worldviews
 - ii. Movie analysis – 4 genres

Given the nature of the class and the fact that the students are seniors, a large amount of flexibility is given to the instructors in order to best enable them to accomplish the class objectives.

GRADING

While each teacher may modify the exact formula, the grade a student earns will generally depend on performance in the following areas:

- Tests/Quizzes 35%
- Homework 35%
- Papers/Letters 20%
- Participation 10%

Homework should be completed before class begins on the day it is due. If you do not hand it in at this time, it is late! Late work may be turned in one day late for partial credit. No credit given after this time.

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

- Bible: ESV (English Standard Version).
- *Understanding the Times* App. Purchased and owned by students

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results – ESLR's

1. Devoted Christians
2. Effective Communicators
3. Critical and Higher Level Thinkers
4. Self-Directed Learners
5. Service-Minded Citizens