

Note:

COURSE CONTENT MAY BE CHANGED, TERM TO TERM, WITHOUT NOTICE. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED AS A GUIDE FOR COURSE SELECTION AND IS NOT BINDING IN ANY FORM.

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

TH 4450 Analyzing and Engaging Worldviews, 3 credit hours

Course Description (catalog description as approved by MBI/MGS faculty)

Contrasts the biblical concept of apologetics with various alternative positions, both theistic and nontheistic. Considers major problem areas, such as authority, miracles, evil, and evolution. Set forth a basis for a Christian apologetic that is theologically and historically sound.

Prerequisites: TH-3321 *Survey of Theology 1* for Bible and Theology majors; TH-3331 *Survey of Theology 2* for all other students.

Course Goals

In this course you will:

- Understand the major obstacles to the development of a mature Christian mind and how to address them
- Develop a strategy for the personal development of one's own Christian mind, and for encouraging such growth in the church
- Understand and learn to identify various worldviews when they appear
- Practice engaging worldviews from a Christian perspective

Course Objectives

After completing this course you should be able to:

1. Identify obstacles to the development of a Christian mind
2. Begin several specific practices for developing and maintaining a Christian mind
3. Identify and assess at least eight contemporary competing worldviews
4. Engage non-Christian worldviews in practical and effective ways

Course Textbooks

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments

All assignments are due at the end of the course. Reading should be completed according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **READING:** The completion of the course reading is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading prior to doing any other assignment for the given week.
2. **DISCUSSION BOARDS:** Participation is expected. You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Response to the weekly discussion is to be posted by mid-week Friday, 11:59pm CST with substantive responses to at least two (2) student's posts by the end of the course week on Monday, 11:59pm CST.

3. **EXAMS:** There are two exams in this course, one covering the formation of a Christian mind and one covering the various competing worldviews. These exams are objective in nature; the first will be completed in Lesson 4 of the course and the second at the end of the course (Lesson 8). **NOTE:** Each week includes self-check quizzes. Though they are not part of your grade, they are good for preparing for the exams.

4. **WORLDVIEW ENGAGEMENT PROJECT:** You are required to complete a project that includes the assigned elements:
 - a. You must engage a specific contemporary popular cultural medium (for example, a specific book or movie) and analyze it for its major themes and the worldview(s) it advances. You will also identify the best Christian responses to these worldviews.
 - b. You must participate in a substantial dialogue with other people (Christians or non-Christians) about the cultural artifact you have studied.
 - c. You must reflect theologically about your dialogue with these others, identifying what you take to be the good and bad parts of your exchange. In particular, you should consider the following questions:
 - i. Did these people agree with the worldviews I identified in this artifact, and did they understand my assessment of those worldviews?
 - ii. Did they understand how I think Christianity challenges, engages, or supports this worldview?
 - iii. What could I have done better? What went well?

[Note: a common way to complete this assignment is to host a movie night or book club, or to join a book discussion at a local library, etc. Please discuss with the instructor any questions or ideas you have about how to complete this project.]

- d. To complete this project, you must submit a 2000-2500 word report, detailing your project. This report must (at minimum) describe what you intended to do in this project, how you prepared, what actually happened, and then include substantial practical and theological reflection assessing the project and your effectiveness in it. This latter reflective portion should make up at least 50% of your report. Attach any supporting materials, like intended discussion questions and suggested answers, as appendices. Paper to be in MLA format, double-spaced.

Assessments

Reading & Discussion Boards	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Project	30%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at my.moody.edu.

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or www.bible.org. These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at bible.org.

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U.

Finally, an extensive list of resources, including websites, podcasts, books, journals, and periodicals, is provided as an appendix to *Love Your God With All Your Mind*.

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