



Live Classes

Understanding the Times A Survey of Worldviews

Mrs. Powell

Syllabus

2025-2026



Personal Note from Instructor:

Welcome to *Understanding the Times – A Survey of Worldviews*, a course designed to help you develop a deeper understanding of the world around you through the lens of a biblical worldview. In this class, we will explore six major worldviews—Christianity, Islam, Secularism, Marxism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism—and examine how they shape perspectives on life’s biggest questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What is true?

This course is not just about gaining knowledge; it is about equipping you to think critically, analyze ideas, and engage meaningfully with the culture.

Throughout this course, you will encounter challenging questions and thought-provoking discussions. It’s okay to wrestle with these ideas—that’s part of the process! I encourage you to approach this journey with a willingness to learn and a commitment to growing in your faith.

Recommended Grade Level:

9th – 12th grade

Prerequisites:

None

Live Lecture Date & Time:

Tuesday 11 am – 12:15 pm **Eastern**
Tuesday 10 am – 11:15 pm **Central**

Tuesday 9 am – 10:15 am **Mountain**
Tuesday 8 am – 9:15 am **Pacific**

NOTE: The instructor does not require attendance of the live lectures but highly recommends students attend as many of the live lectures as possible to take advantage of live Q&A. Lectures are recorded and posted on the course Canvas page under the associated week and module. If you miss a lecture, please watch the recording. You can also use the recording for review as you prepare for the online exam.

Description:

Presented in partnership with Summit Ministries, this classic study is a guided tour on how different worldviews answer life's ultimate questions. We will examine today's six most prominent worldviews—Christianity, Islam, Secularism, Marxism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism—and how they view man's relationship to God, himself, and one another. In addition, we will add depth by reading *The Screwtape Letters* — this addition will encourage students to think critically and reflect personally.

Required Class Materials:

Textbook: September 2015 1st Edition - <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Curriculum-Homeschool-Understanding-the-Times-Series/Understanding-the-Times.html>

Student Manual: <http://webstore.summit.org/Store/Curriculum-Homeschool-Understanding-the-Times-Series/Understanding-the-Times-Student-Manual.html> The student manual provides you with the passcode to access videos and additional reading material required for this course.

Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis – In an effort to put some real-life application to our study of worldviews, students will be reading through this text. The instructor is using a study guide for teenagers for the discussion prompts.

Course Topics:

We will look at how the influence of the six major worldviews manifests in America's institutions of higher learning, especially in the key academic disciplines of theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

Assignment Structure:

See schedule in Canvas

Grading:

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|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Class participation | 10% |
| Chapter Discussions | 25% |
| Worldview Focus / Application | 25% |
| Quizzes & Tests | 25% |
| Final | 15% |

Due Dates and Late Policy:

Pay attention to due dates. Assignments not completed by the due date will be marked late. All assignments have a built-in two weeks for completion therefore **extensions will not be offered.**

Student Conduct:

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is any type of cheating that occurs on any exercise related to this course. It can include plagiarism, fabrication, deception, cheating, bribery, sabotage, professional misconduct, and impersonation. **Any type of cheating will not be tolerated!**

Cheating includes but is not limited to copying homework, falsifying reasons for missing class, copying other students' exams/homework/answers, impersonating a parent, having someone else login to a Canvas/Zoom account to complete material on a student's behalf, or plagiarizing material someone else has written and claiming it as your own.

Any plagiarism will receive 0 points and the parents will be notified.

Class Behavior

Zoom is our online classroom. You will use the link provided in the Canvas portal to log-on every week. You will enter First Name and Initial of your last name. Do not use nicknames, if the teacher is unable to recognize the student, said student will be removed from class. The class is being **recorded**.

Instructor Availability for Questions:

Instructor is available by email Monday – Friday: mrspowell@apologia.com

Office hours are on Fridays 9 – 12pm

Additional details on instructor availability are provided during the open house for this course.