

CHR 305 Syllabus

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY (SC)

I. COURSE INFORMATION

CHR 305 ACCEL Online: Christian Worldview & Contemporary Application (3 hours)

Credit Hours: 3

Catalogue Summary: Study of the Christian worldview in comparison to its contemporary rivals, including an emphasis on the ethical application of Christian beliefs. Pre-requisite: CHR105 (or 107/109) and PHI210, typically Junior status.

Time & Location: Administered online at <http://au.instructure.com>

II. COURSE PURPOSE, GOALS, AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course considers the concept of a worldview, and outlines a biblical approach in contradistinction to others (naturalism, postmodernism, etc). This course also introduces methods for applying the Christian worldview to contemporary ethical dilemmas.

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Appraise how the concept of worldview influences, shapes, and informs one's life in society.
2. Analyze the basic tenets of a Christian worldview in contradistinction to others.
3. Identify, evaluate and support one's own worldview.
4. Relate the Christian worldview to select contemporary moral problems.

METHODS OF ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is divided into 6 units, each lasting 1 week and ending on a Monday. Students are expected to take quizzes, participate in discussions, and complete all assignments according to the directions.

Discussions cannot be completed late. Quizzes taken late will incur a 20-point penalty. Written assignments submitted late will incur a 20-point penalty.

Group Project: *** The group project seems to surprise students each semester. All sections of CHR 305, whether seated or online, requires a group project. This is not something that I can change or delete. It is a requirement for CHR305 at Anderson University ***

Worldview Groups: Students will be divided into Worldview Groups of 3-5 students. Many discussions will take place only within these groups, and groups will complete the group project together. There are 5 Stages for the Group Project, with separate due dates.

The student's final grade will be based upon the following criteria, with each item weighted as indicated:

1. **Quizzes (30%).** Quizzes will vary in style, and will contain a variety of question types, including but not limited to multiple choice, True/False, short answer, and essay. Each quiz covers all material in the unit. **Quizzes are open book or open notes, but may NOT be taken in groups.**
2. **Discussions (25%).** Discussions comprise the major component of the course, to foster critical thought and interaction. Directions vary for each discussion, and are often staged (e.g., an initial post due on Monday and a response posts due on Wednesday). Discussions will be assessed individually according to the rubric posted on Canvas. Rudeness and personal attacks will not be tolerated, and will result in a zero for the assignment. **You must make your initial post by the due date to give other students time to respond. Generally, this means that you must complete the reading and lectures early in the week. Discussions cannot be completed late.**

Discussion Expectations: Typically discussions have 2 posts due.

1. First, on day 1 you should compose a post, answering the questions, as directed. Though the instructor doesn't count words, a reasonable outline for the initial post is 250-350 words. The key is to answer the questions thoughtfully.
2. Second, on day 2 you should reply to another student, engaging their post. A post that basically says "I agree, Johnny! Great job" will not receive high marks. Instead, reply to their post as you might in class with a follow-up question, a clarifying question, or a point of disagreement. Perhaps you came to the same conclusion but your rationale was different. The instructor is not asking you to be rude and critical of another student. A reasonable outline for this post is 100-200 words. The key is to pick a post to reply to that you can follow-up with, rather than simply replying to a post that you agree with in every way.
3. **Reflections (10%).** Reflections are individual, written assignments through which a student will consider and respond to course material. Reflections are not research assignments, but do analysis and clear expression. See directions for each reflection on Canvas.
4. **Ethical Scenario Paper (10%).** Each student will compose a 4-page, research-driven essay concerning the ethical scenario for his or her group project. See directions on Canvas.
5. **Group Project (10%).** Each student, with his or her worldview group, will complete a group project based on a chosen ethical scenario. See details and directions on Canvas.
6. **FINAL Paper (15%). My Worldview Defended, Compared, and Applied:** *In six pages(double-spaced)*, each student will compose a paper, citing sources as necessary, that explains and defends his or her own worldview, contrasts this worldview to another, and applies his or her worldview to an ethical problem. See Canvas for full details.

7. Although very unlikely, the professor reserves the right to restructure and reschedule the course requirements, assignments, dates, and percentages—according to the needs of the class.

STUDENT FEEDBACK AND GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students may expect reasonably prompt feedback on assignments and academic progress.

Required Assignments Summary:

Quizzes: 30%

Discussions: 25%

Reflections: 10%

Ethical Scenario Paper: 10%

Group Project: 10%

Final Paper: 15%

Grading Scale:

A: 90—100

B: 80—89

C: 70—79

D: 60—69

F: 59 and below

CONTENT OUTLINE

Unit One: What is a Worldview? What is YOUR Worldview?

Unit Two: Comparing Contemporary Worldviews

Unit Three: The Christian Worldview In-Depth

Group Project Stage 1

Unit Four: Common Objections to Christianity

Unit Five: Worldview & Moral Reasoning, Part 1

Group Project Stage 2

Group Project Stage 3

Unit Six: Worldview & Moral Reasoning, Part 2

Group Project Stage 4

Group Project Stage 5

FINAL Paper

III. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Classroom material will be presented primarily by means of textbook reading, video, online multimedia lectures, online reading, and discussions.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE CALENDAR

See the course at <http://au.instructure.com> for specific assignments and dates. Material for each unit will be posted as it approaches.

V. COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE

Each student must have access to a computer, and all written work must be typed, double-spaced, using 1-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-point font. Each student must maintain an email address on the Anderson University email system, and should check his or her email at least once per week. In addition, the student should frequently check the Canvas "home" page of the course, including the "announcements" page. The student is responsible for all material, assignments, and announcements sent by email. Ignorance of course requirements, announcements, and instructor directions sent through these electronic means does not constitute an acceptable excuse for failure to meet the requirements of the course.

You are responsible to have reliable, consistent access to the Internet. You may work from home or use the computer labs available at AU. Avoid taking a quiz in bad weather or with an unreliable connection.

Permission to Recording Lecture/Class Meetings: To assist students in note taking and mastery of content, recordings of lectures is permitted in this course. However, these recordings may only be used to assist the individual student in the course. Publishing, distributing, or using classroom recordings in violation of these restrictions is a violation of the student code of conduct and may be a violation of federal copyright laws.

VI. COURSE POLICIES

1) LATE PENALTIES:

- Late written assignments and late quizzes receive an automatic 20-point deduction. Discussion boards cannot be completed late. All late work must be submitted by the day the final paper is due.

2) **Disruptive Behavior:** The professor reserves the right to dismiss a student from class who is engaged in any disruptive behavior during discussions or group projects. Rude comments and/or personal attacks will not be tolerated, and will result in a "zero" for that assignment.

NOTE: *This course entails discussing controversial topics in the fields of religion and ethics. Discussions should not be construed as a negative attack on any particular group. The course promotes the open exchange of ideas with a view to greater understanding, but requires sensitivity. The student will encounter other opinions which may, at times, seem novel, outlandish, or controversial. Show respect in all circumstances. Hearing other opinions and interpretations is part of the learning experience. Always exhibit patience and courtesy. Belligerence will not be tolerated.*

3) **Honor Code:** Each student must complete assignments individually. Draw only from personal study. No cheating of any kind is allowed. Study groups can be helpful, but only if they help foster your own thoughts. If the professor discovers that a student is cheating, the grade for that assignment will automatically be a zero, and the offense *will* be reported to the Vice President of Student Services. This is your only warning. Anderson University students are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic conduct for which a student may be penalized includes all forms of cheating, including illicit possession or dissemination of examinations (or exam materials), forgery, and plagiarism. Students should read and follow carefully the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty Policy in the Student Handbook.

4) **Disabilities:** If you have a disability that may interfere with your learning, testing, or assignment completion in this course, you may be eligible to receive an academic adjustment to help provide you with an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from this course. Please contact Dr. Dianne King, Director of the Center for Student Success, who will advise you on appropriate documentation, determine reasonable adjustments, and notify me of any adjustments for which you are eligible. Once you have been approved for an academic adjustment through the Center for Student Success, please discuss with me its appropriate implementation in this course. Documentation must meet the guidelines specified by university policy, and no one else can be notified of your disability or adjustment without your written consent. This process must be repeated for every semester you are enrolled at Anderson University and wish to receive an adjustment. Academic adjustments are intended to “level the playing field” so that students with disabilities can demonstrate their true abilities in their courses. Changes cannot be made to grades earned before a student has requested an adjustment, so please attend to this early in the semester.

5) **Withdrawal Deadlines:** The last day to drop the course with no grade and no charge is May 17 (course will not appear on student’s transcript). The last day to drop the course with a grade of “W” and a charge is June 6 by noon (course will appear on student’s transcript). All requests must be made to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate date.5)

6) **Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit for this course. The best way to do well in this course is to turn in all of one's assignments on time, and put time and *thought* into one's work.

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VII. LEARNING FACILITIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS PERTINENT TO COURSE

Enrolling in this course enters you into an unwritten contract that you will work diligently, participate actively, and approach assignments meaningfully, and abide by all the policies detailed in this syllabus.

As an online course, it is imperative that you regularly check the course website at <http://au.instructure.com>