

Course Number & Title – HUM422 Christian Perspectives: Sin & Culture

Department – AUD – Arts & Sciences

Contacting Your Professor

1. To contact your professor, select “Inbox” from the global navigation bar on the left-hand side of your screen. After selecting “Inbox,” click the pencil in the top right of your screen to begin your message. Type in your professor's name and your message before sending.

Delivery – Online

Course Description – This course will examine traditions and cultures according to a biblical worldview in order to better understand how the different aspects of human history, art, science, philosophy and society have shaped and been shaped by Christian belief. (3 credits)

Course Prerequisite(s) – None

Student Learning Outcomes – As a result of this course the student will do the following:

1. Analyze and critique cultural artifacts relevant to the course's subject area.
2. Explain the influence of Christian thought within the subject area.
3. Communicate and defend a biblical worldview in reference to arts and sciences.
4. Engage with a community to expose society to a biblical worldview.
5. Define the role of ethics in decision making.
6. Assess the nature of ethics both as method and practice.
7. Distinguish between personal values, ethical standards, and ethical choices and evaluate the relationships among them.
8. Articulate opposing positions on a variety of topics.
9. Recognize the difficulties associated with arriving at ethical conclusions without compromising one's own beliefs

Course Requirements

1. *Textbook(s)* – Book information and a price comparison tool can be found at <https://www.lbcbookstore.com/>. Click on “Compare Textbook Prices” in the middle of the page. Here you will find the bookstore's prices, digital options, plus Amazon and other online retailers.

- a. Bridges, Jerry. *Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007.
- b. Tripp, Paul D. *Sex and Money: Pleasures that Leave You Empty and Grace that Satisfies*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013.

2. *Materials*

- a. There are no extra materials required for this course.

3. *Assignments*

- a. **Character Contract** – A character contract is simply an agreement between student and professor of how you propose to strengthen a personal character quality. The contract will specify:
 - i. Which character quality you intend to improve.
 - ii. Why you believe this character quality is vital in a ministry of shepherding others.
 - iii. What activities you plan to use in your learning strategy.
 - iv. How you will present evidence of improvement.
- b. **Response Blogs/Reflection Forums** – Upon completing the major sections of the Bridges and Tripp texts, students will complete engaging, creative activities that reflect upon the knowledge that they have acquired. In addition, students will be reflecting on additional material and topics within the course. Students are expected to post their initial reaction early in the week to give the discussion time to grow organically. (SLOs 1, 4, 7)
- c. **Cultural Artifact Critique Assignments/Forums** – Students will critique a series of cultural artifacts from a Christian perspective by examining the answer to three basic questions. (1) What values are inherent in this medium? (2) What impact does this medium have on my relationship with others and with God? (3) What impact do various social institutions such as the family, business, or government have on why and how we use certain technologies? Students will then interact on these topics in a guided forum discussion. (SLOs 1, 2)
- d. **Research Paper** – Students will research a disputed ethical topic covered in this course. They will then prepare an 8- to 10-page research paper citing at least 15 sources to present both sides of the issue and then support their own position from a biblical worldview. During the course, a Topic Proposal, Tentative Bibliography, Outline, and Rough Draft will be required prior to the final paper submission. At any point, students may be required to visit the Writing Center to hone their research writing skills. Finally, students will creatively present their topic to the class. (SLOs 5, 6, 7, 9)
- e. **Debates** – Students will be divided and assigned opposing positions on 2 key issues. They will research their side and prepare a debate form, in the classical model, to defend their assigned position. Finally, they will have the opportunity to present their positions in a forum... and may the best argument win! (SLO 8)

4. *Exams and Quizzes*
 - a. There are no exams or quizzes in this course.
5. *Extra Credit*
 - a. There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

Course Procedures

Course Practices – This online course uses readings, discussions, and other resources and activities to aid and measure the learning of its objectives. Work through the weeks in sequential order, completing the learning explorations and assignments. Please take these opportunities to interact with the instructor and fellow students about the course content, the learning experience, and the relationships between the material and one’s own experience.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

“The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.”

Taken from <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

To conform to FERPA regulations, all students in this course will be accorded the rights of an adult. Therefore, any communication concerning grades or student performance can only be conducted between the student and the professor. Direct inquiry from parents cannot be returned. Parents must direct all concerns through the student.

Participation Policy – Participation in forums and completion of assignments are required to pass this course. Forums cannot be made up after the assigned week. If you need to be away from the course, please communicate with the instructor as soon as possible. We have far more options for making exceptions the more forewarning we have.

Attendance and participation for this course take the form of completing of all readings and assignments in a timely manner, contributing to discussions with charity, and actively collaborating with fellow students when required.

1. *Grading Policy, Rating Scale, Use of Rubrics, etc.*

Receiving an **A** mark in this course corresponds to work that is of the highest technical and philosophical excellence. This means that not only is the work clearly and correctly presented (all submitted work must be type written in 12 font, double spaced unless prior permission is requested from the professor) but also that the level of work demonstrates an intellectual maturity to be determined by the professor.

A grade of **B** in this course indicates that a motivated student is making sound content decisions but that the quality of their work could stand some improvement.

To receive a mark of a **C** in this class shows that the student has made an intellectual effort but that the quality of that work needs significant improvement to reach quality performance.

A mark of **D** indicates that the student has met the minimum requirements for the assignment as determined by the professor.

The mark of **F** signifies that either the work has not met the minimum requirements as established by the professor or that the student failed to submit the assignment.

<i>Excellent</i>	A	=	94–100		B-	=	80–83		D+	=	67–69
	A-	=	90–93		C+	=	77–79	<i>Passing</i>	D	=	64–66
	B+	=	87–89	<i>Average</i>	C	=	74–76		D-	=	60–63
<i>Good</i>	B	=	84–86		C-	=	70–73	<i>Failure</i>	F	=	0–59

The weight of each assignment in relation to your final grade is allocated in the following grading categories:

Character Contract	10%
Response Blogs/Reflection Forums	25%
Cultural Artifact Critiques	15%
Debates	20%
Research Paper Proposal	5%
Research Paper Outline	5%
Research Paper Final	15%
Research Paper Presentation	5%

2. *Late Assignment Policy* – I recommend that you submit your initial discussion posting as early in the week as possible. This will give your colleagues an opportunity to submit a meaningful response to your post by Sunday evening. Posting on the due date, or after, does not allow your colleagues an opportunity to interact with your contributions, as they have moved on to other course activities. Posting late also diminishes the course’s learning community.
3. *Make-up Policy* – Work that is accepted after the due date (at the instructor’s discretion) will be reduced in grade by 20% for each late day. Work submitted later than five days after the due date will not be accepted.
6. *Ally Center Statement* – The Ally Center is LBC | Capital’s hub for academic services, resources, and accessibility. The academic services include disability services, writing services, and academic mentoring services and are available at no additional cost. To schedule an online or on-campus appointment, or for information regarding resources, locations, and hours of operation, visit lbc.edu/ally.
 - a. *Disability Services* – LBC | Capital is committed to creating an educational environment that is inclusive and accessible, in compliance with the guidelines of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students choosing to disclose a disability must contact the Disability Services Office to discuss reasonable accommodations.

After speaking with the student and reviewing documentation, reasonable accommodations will be determined. It is in the student’s best interest to contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible prior to each new term since professors cannot provide accommodations without verification from the DSO and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. More information and disclosure forms are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Please note: Students should register with the Disability Services Office each term for

which accommodations are desired; accommodations from the prior semester are not automatically carried over.

The Disability Services Office can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5383 or DSO@lbc.edu. The confidential fax line is 717.560.8261.

- b. *Writing Services* – The Writing Center is available to help any LBC | Capital student with writing assignments from any course. Students can schedule a one-on-one appointment with professional personnel or peer mentors at any point in the writing process. Writing Services include: assistance in brainstorming and outlining, development of ideas, critique of partial or full drafts, and/or review of formatting and citations. Appointments are available both on campus and online. A variety of writing resources are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Writing Services can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at WritingCenter@lbc.edu.

- c. *Academic Mentoring Services* – Academic Mentoring Services (AMS) provides academic services at no cost to any current undergraduate LBC student. Professional personnel and peer mentors come alongside students to assist with major projects, time management, review of course content, test-taking skills, and study strategies. A variety of academic resources are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Students may make academic mentoring appointments by phone at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at AMS@lbc.edu.

- d. *Contact Information*

Location	Email	Phone
Lancaster	AllyCenter@lbc.edu	717.569.7071 ext. 5389
Philadelphia	AllyPhilly@lbc.edu	215.329.5400 ext. 5753
Washington D.C.	AllyDC@lbc.edu	301.552.1400 ext. 5806
Online	AllyCenter@lbc.edu	717.569.7071 ext. 5389

- 7. *Academic Integrity Statement* – As followers of Christ, we need to be fully committed to honesty and truthfulness in all aspects of our lives, including in our academic lives. Therefore, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any way. Students are responsible to familiarize themselves with LBC’s Academic Integrity Policy and adhere to it. It is located in the Student Handbook.
- 8. *Statement on Self-care* – College in general is a rich and fulfilling experience, full of opportunities for students. Along with this abundance of opportunities comes the challenge of maintaining a healthy life balance characterized by productive tension, a sensible schedule, and time for rest. Productive tension, at times, can be compounded by unexpected life challenges, causing unproductive levels of stress. This can lead to feelings of sadness, increased anxiety, and an overall lack of focus. For this reason, LBC | Capital strongly encourages students to care for themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually during each academic term and throughout their journeys. Everyone benefits by support in times of struggle so students are also encouraged to seek help promptly by talking with professors or other College staff about life challenges as related to academic performance and to seek advice regarding available supports inside and outside of the LBC | Capital community.

Course Resources

1. *Technology Difficulties* – The Help Desk is available to help you with computer and technology problems and questions. Call 717.560.8200 ext. 4357 (HELP), email help@lbc.edu, or visit <https://www.lbc.edu/helpdesk>.
2. *Library Resources* – The library subscribes to numerous databases to provide access to scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, eBooks, newspapers, magazines, and much more. Online resources are accessible anywhere on campus or remotely 24/7 using your LBC username and password. To access these resources, go to <https://www.lbc.edu/library>. The library website also includes links for students to request research assistance:
 - ASK A LIBRARIAN is for information from an LBC librarian within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).
 - LIVE CHAT is for immediate assistance—usually from a non-LBC librarian.
 - REQUEST RESEARCH CONSULTATION is for arranging an appointment with a librarian, either in-person or online.