



COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: 8 weeks.

Course ID: LDRS 5353

Course Title: Integrating Faith in Language and Communication Arts

College: Department of Design and Communication

Prerequisites: ENGL 1233

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course reviews central elements of a Christian worldview, examines the theoretical dimensions of prominent approaches to the language and communication arts, and explores ways to integrate Christian thought, principles, and values in the fields of language.

Course Overview

This course is unique in that it guides the student in just how to practically integrate the student's Christian Worldview with their chosen profession. Additionally, using the experience of others, a Statement of Faith and theoretical underpinnings, the student will be asked to analyze various communication and language artifacts using a unique style of analysis. Such an exercise is meant to prepare the student for their future as they fully integrate into the working world.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is _____(x hours per week).

Course Materials

- Detweiler, Craig, and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Milne, Bruce. Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief. Downer's Grove: Inter Varsity Press 3rd Ed., 2009.

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

- Introduction to Integrating Faith in Language & Communication Arts
- Integration of Faith
- Foundations of Christian Thought and Values
- Television and Film's Role in Cultural Influence
- Cultural Dynamics of Media and Literary Texts
- Sports and Sports Entertainment in Culture
- Arts as Culture
- Communication and Language Research

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

- Generate a personal understanding of how to practically integrate Christian thought, principles, and values, in their study and work in the fields of language and communication.
- Summarize the central aspects of thought, principles, and values of a Christian worldview.
- Explain the major theoretical approaches and/or presuppositions of prominent schools of contemporary thought and their influences on language and communication contexts and practices in contemporary culture.
- Critically compare the interactive dynamics among culture, media, and literary texts.
- Upon completion of the course, students should be able to summarize issues regarding the expression and application of Christian faith in pluralistic cultural settings.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted without prior consent from the instructor..

Extra Credit

Not Accepted

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS

Aim



When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn



When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply



When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1

XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Identify the various areas of academic study and professional pursuit within the fields of language and communication (broadcast, film, creative writing, journalism, and etc.)
- Discuss how having a Christian Worldview and a Personal Statement of Faith will benefit you personally.
- Summarize the central aspects of thought, principles, and values of a Christian worldview.
- Write a personal Statement of Faith based upon a Christian Worldview.



- Text: Chapters 1-8 of Bruce Milne. Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief
- This resource will clearly explain what a Christian Worldview is and will assist you as you construct your Worldview.
- Article: "What's a Christian Worldview?" by Del Tackett
- Article: "How to Write an Effective Statement of Faith"



- Introduction Video
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Week 1 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20

- Personal Statement of Faith

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 40

- Week 1 Quiz

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 10

MODULE 2:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Develop a plan on how to best integrate one's Christian faith with the fields of language and communication.
- Discuss three points of knowledge you found particularly useful from the interview of a Christian professional.
- Interview and learn from a Christian professional now working in the field.
- Determine an understanding of postmodernity in the marketplace.



- Text: Read the Introduction and Conclusion (pp. 15-28; 273-292) of Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture.
- Article: "Marshall McLuhan: The Medium is the Message" by Todd Kappelman
 - Provides explanation of foundation communication thought that may be useful in understanding the power of the communication field as students develop understanding of their area of interest in the field.



- Week 2 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Interview
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Your Professional Plan

- Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 40
- Week 2 Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 10

MODULE 3:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Explain the foundations of Christian thought.
- Classify the overarching principles of the Christian faith.
- Describe the specific values of a Christian worldview.
- Discuss a piece of advertising you have seen this week and describe your thoughts based upon this week's reading in Detweiler.
- Recognize the principles we may gain from analysis of various media in the world around us by understanding a Theology of Communication.



- Text: Chapters 1-2 of Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture.
- Text: Chapters 9 – 22 of Bruce Milne. Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief.
- Article: "A Theology of Communication" by William Fore
 - For the Christian, theology and communication can function together to provide a framework for living out one's faith in the real world. This reading assists the student in forming their own Theology of Communication for use in this week's discussion and assignments.



- Week 3 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Short Production

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 70

□ Week 3 Quiz

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 10

MODULE 4:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Identify the various dynamics within culture, media and literary texts as outlined in course text.
- Utilize the S.E.I analysis technique.
- In American culture, film and television certainly have tremendous influence. Considering this week's assigned reading, what
- Discuss why special considerations should be given to American culture, film and television when conducting an analysis.
- Analyze a language or media artifact according to S.E.I.



- Text: Chapters 5-6 of Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture.



- Week 4 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Artifact Analysis 1
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 70
- Week 4 Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 10

MODULE 5:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Recognize the role of celebrity in the formation of culture.
- Contrast the various dynamics within culture, media and literary texts and analysis technique (S.E.I.).
- Recognize the role of celebrities and other personalities in the media.
- Discuss what you learned from your analysis of the song you analyzed for this week.
- Describe the primary issues in integrating the Christian faith and modern culture.
- Analyze a song according to S.E.I.
- Choose a topic for the final paper.



- Text: Chapters 3-4 of Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture



- Week 5 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Artifact Analysis 2
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 70
- Topic for Final Paper
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: Ungraded.

□ Week 5 Quiz

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 10

MODULE 6:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Contrast the various dynamics within culture, media and literary texts and analysis technique (S.E.I.).
- Recognize the role of analysis in the critique of various artifacts.
- Recognize the role of fashion and sport in shaping culture.
- Discuss the effects of sports on exercising faith in American culture.
- Analyze an artifact from any genre according to S.E.I.



- Text: Chapters 7-8 of Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture.



- Week 6 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Artifact Analysis 3
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 70
- Week 6 Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 10

MODULE 7:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Recognize the various dynamics within culture, media and literary texts as outlined in course text.
- Explain the role of art in the shaping of culture.
- Discuss the role of art in culture, and your understanding of the analysis of art.



- Text: Chapter 9 of Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor. A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture.



- Week 7 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Week 7 Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 10

MODULE 8:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



- Describe the primary issues in integrating the Christian faith and modern culture.
- Explain the ease or difficulty in applying one's Christian faith the cultural context.
- Articulate in academic writing the application of a Christian Worldview to a chosen professional field.
- Discuss the overall topic of your final paper and ask fellow students for their input.
- Write a paper synthesizing information learned in the class and describe the student's understanding of a Christian worldview and how they are to use this worldview.



- No readings or resources required this week.



- Week 8 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Final Paper
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 140
- Week 8 Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 10

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Introduction Video

Description

Upload a 2 - 3 minute self-introduction video to the class describing where you are from? Your year in University? Your area of interest with Language or Communication? What makes you unique? What you hope to learn from this class? Take a few moments and get to know your classmates by viewing each other's introduction. Feel free to comment to each other. Full points given as long as you successfully post the video and answer the questions above.

Total Possible Points

30

Grade Weight

3%

Discussion Forums

Description

Answer questions in a group discussion forum. Write a reflection as a reply to no less than two other students in the class as they answer the questions.

Total Possible Points

160

Grade Weight

20%

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Personal Statement of Faith

Description

Two - three pages. Showing you have read the course material, describe, in detail, what steps you took in the construction of your Personal Statement of Faith. Discuss the reasoning behind the wording of your Statement of Faith. Conclude the assignment with your Statement of Faith.

Total Possible Points

40

Grade Weight

5%

Interview

Description

Conduct an interview with a Christian working as a professional in the field of Language or Communication. Ask the professional foundational questions which include; How long have you worked in the field? What is your current position? What has been your career path to get where you are? Then, ask them questions about living out their faith in the professional world. Such questions should include; How difficult or easy has it been for you to live out your faith professionally? How has your job affected you spiritually? Are there aspects of your professional that have been limited because of your faith?

Spiritually, how open are you able to share your faith in your work environment? What advice would you give to a college student like myself as I look to entering your field? You may add other questions to your interview. When writing your assignment, simply list your question and the professional's answer word-for-word.

After writing out the interview, write a one page response illustrating what you learned from the interview and what you plan to keep in mind as you go into the profession after college.

Total Possible Points

30

Grade Weight

3%

Your Professional Plan**Description**

In two to four pages, demonstrating an understanding of this week's reading, your personal statement of faith written last week, and your interview with the Christian professional, write your plan for living out your faith in the workplace. The plan should include an overall plan of career progression (how do you see yourself getting to your dream job/business/ministry and how you hope to live out your faith in that progression. What measures you will take in the workplace in order to live out your faith? How you expect others to respond to you? Issues you expect to encounter? Results you hope to see through your efforts to live out your faith? Ideas on how hard or how easy you expect it to be to live out your faith?

Total Possible Points

40

Grade Weight

5%

Short Production**Description**

Student creatively demonstrates their understanding of the foundation of Christianity, a Theology of Communication and the basics of the Christian faith through one of the following: a "news broadcast," an article on a blog, a short film, a "radio broadcast," a written play, a photo journal, a Power Point production, news article or etc. The

production is meant to show creatively just the student has understood the basics of the Christian faith and what it means to have a Theology of communication. The emphasis is upon the creative elements of this assignment. Length: no longer than three minutes or no longer than ten minutes to read.

Total Possible Points

70

Grade Weight

9%

Artifact Analyses

Description

Artifact Analysis 1 (70 points): Choose one of the following artifacts and write (2-3 pages) your SEI Analysis on it:

(1) Grey's Anatomy Season 9 Opener at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7nxAVB2cbY>

(2) Duck Dynasty Introduction at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puT37S8TuR8>

(3) Audio Car Super Bowl advertisement at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6u10YPk_34

(4) Turkish Airways with Morgan Freeman at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_gv6fRejLM

Artifact Analysis 2 (70 points): Choose any song and perform an S.E.I. analysis on it. You may conduct the analysis in either video (8-10 minutes), audio (8-10 minutes) or written format (2-3 pages). Include a link to the song if possible.

Artifact Analysis 3 (70 points): Choose any artifact from any genre and perform an S.E.I. analysis on it. You may conduct the analysis in either video (8-10 minutes), audio (8-10 minutes) or written format (2-3 pages). Include a link to the artifact if possible.

Total Possible Points

210

Grade Weight

27%

Final Paper**Description**

Synthesizing information learned in the class, the student will write a major paper (12-15 pages). The paper will describe the student's understanding of a Christian worldview and how they are to use this worldview to as they interact with the world around them and particularly within their chosen professional field. Special emphasis should be placed upon the student's expectation of how they will interact with and live out their faith in their chosen profession. Student will give detailed understanding of both positive and negative expectations for the future as they live out their faith.

Total Possible Points

140

Grade Weight

18%

Quizzes**Description**

Brief five question quizzes are required each week.

Total Possible Points

80

Grade Weight

10%

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Bibliography

- Birkets, Sven. *The Gutenberg Elegies – The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*. Faber & Faber, 1994. Print.
- Corbitt, Nathan and Nix, Vivian. *Taking it to the Streets – Using the Arts to Transform Your Community*. Baker, 2004. Print.
- Cunningham, David S. *Reading is Believing – The Christian Faith Through Film and Literature*. Brazos, 2002. Print.
- Dark, David. *Everyday Apocalypse: The Sacred Revealed in Radiohead, the Simpsons and Other Pop Culture Icons*. Brazos, 2002. Print.
- Detweiler, Craig and Taylor, Barry. *A Matrix of Meaning – Finding God in Popular Culture*. Baker, 2003. Print.
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- Jeffrey, David Lyle, ed. *A Dictionary of Biblical Tradition in English Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992. Print.
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- Johnson, Robert. *Reel Spirituality – Theology and Film in Dialogue*. Baker, 2000. Print.
- Jones, Tony. *The Sacred Way: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Neal, Connie. *The Gospel According to Harry Potter*. Westminster John Knox, 2002. Print.
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- Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. Viking, 1986. Print.

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Reinhartz, Adele. Scripture on the Silver Screen. Westminster John Knox, 2003. Print.

Ritzer, George. The McDonaldization of Society. 3rd ed. Pine Forge, 2000. Print.

Romanowski, William. Eyes Wide Open – Looking for God in Popular Culture. Brazos, 2001. Print.

Romanowski, William. Pop Culture Wars: Religion and the Role of Entertainment in American Life. Intervarsity, 1996. Print.

Walhout, Clarence & Leland Ryken, eds. Contemporary Literary Theory: A Christian Appraisal. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. Print.

Ward, Ralph C. The Gospel According to Tolkien. Westminster John Knox, 2003. Print.

Winter, Richard. Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment. Intervarsity, 2002. Print.

Websites

Bibliography on Religion & the Bible in/and Literature & Theory—Bruce Boeckel:
<https://lists.bethel.edu/pipermail/christlit/1997-June/003906.html>

Brehm Center for Worship, Theology and the Arts: <http://www.brehmcenter.com/>

Journal of Religion and Popular Culture: <http://www.usask.ca/relst/jrpc/index.html>

Religion and Film:

<http://www.cmu.ca/faculty/gmatties/Religion%20and%20Film%20Bibliography.htm>