

Course Syllabus

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RELG 2403

Basic Christian Beliefs

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the basics of the Christian faith. Focus will be on the biblical and doctrinal truths common to all Christian denominations and spiritual formation for the individual. Christian faith and doctrine will be examined and compared with other world faiths in order to best understand the essential foundation of Jesus Christ to Christianity.

Course Prerequisites

While there are no prerequisites, it is recommended that students complete either BIBL 1013: Old Testament Survey or BIBL 1023: New Testament Survey prior to taking this course.

Required Materials

Wright, N.T. Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2006. (ISBN-13: 978-0060507152)

Lewis, C. S. Mere Christianity. New York: Harper Collins, 2001. (ISBN – 978-0-06-065292-0)

Bible: Each student will need constant access and use of a Bible. It is recommended that students use a more modern language Bible such as the NIV, NRSV, NKJV or other similar Bible translations. Students should not use a paraphrase Bible (Message, Good News Bible) for reading and work; while these are wonderful for devotional reading and understanding, they are not sufficient in translational wording for scholarly research and application.

Accreditation

Southern Wesleyan University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Southern Wesleyan University.

Program Learning Outcomes

PLO#1	Bear witness to a deepening relationship with God through Christ reflected in integrity of thought, affection, and action.
PLO#2	Approach issues of both a theoretical and practical nature from a consistently biblical perspective, tempered by awareness of personal biases and divergent views.
PLO#3	Show evidence of personal maturation and growth in holy living.
PLO#4	Demonstrate foundational knowledge of the Bible, Christian history, and theology.
PLO#5	Understand and interpret the Bible.

Course Learning Outcomes

Enter course learning outcomes, connect to program learning outcomes

CLO#1	Express common human experiences that suggest the reality of God and the human need for spiritual relationship.
CLO#2	Relate Christian faith to the contemporary culture.
CLO#3	Evaluate critical issues of Christian faith from a biblical perspective.
CLO#4	Understand basic Christian beliefs based on broad theological perspectives.
CLO#5	Identify differing orthodox theological perspectives.
CLO#6	Study the Bible theologically as well as devotionally.
CLO#7	Carefully consider and evaluate the central tenets of Christian faith.

Course Learning Assignments and Assessments

Grading

Weekly Exams (7)	350 points
Individual Reports (5)	300 points
Discussion Postings (10)	200 points
Research Paper	150 points
Total	1000 points

Weekly Exams - 50 points each

Each weekly session will have an exam that covers the material assigned for reading and provided through the course power points for that particular session. Exams are timed at 75 minutes and must be completed once the exam is entered online. Exams primarily consist of multiple choice, True/False and matching questions. Short essay responses may be required from time to time. Each exam is specific to the courser material covered in that week and will not cover material from other session weeks of the course.

Individual Reports - 60 points each

Individual Reports will lightly research one of two world religions identified in the assignment instructions. An example format using Christianity as the topic is provided in the instructions for guidance in formatting and content expected. The paper will identify elements from the "Data Sheet on World Religions," which is also located for download in the instructions section of each assignment. Papers will have a section for comparison of similarity and contrast with Christianity at the end of the paper. Papers will be from two to three pages in length, double-spaced, and will include a Works Cited page for sources following an MLA format. These reports should be completed off line weekly and uploaded into the Canvas assignment. The grading rubric for the assignment is available through the session outline page.

Discussion Postings - 20 points each

Weekly Discussion Postings covering reading topics from both the course textbooks. Postings should address all areas outlined in the instructions and reflect knowledge of the reading as well as personal insight through critical thinking on the topics. Some of the weekly postings require responses to classmates. When a classmate response is part of the posting assignment, the initial posting will be due on Thursday of that week's session. Response postings will be due at the normal completion of the session, Sunday at 11:59 pm. If no response posting is required, the posting will be due at the end of the weekly session.

Research Paper - 150 points

This paper will be completed offline and uploaded through the Canvas assignment for assessment. The paper topic will be either The Sacrament of Baptism or The Sacrament of Communion and will follow the basic guidelines below as well as any specific instructions listed by the course instructor:

- Students are to follow the MLA format with appropriate in-text citation and a works cited page.
- The paper will be a minimum of four pages and a maximum of seven pages. Less/More than this will subject the paper to a reduction in grading at the discretion of the instructor.

It is suggested that students consult up to six separate scholarly sources and utilize a minimum of four scholarly sources in the paper. Students are encouraged to make use of the library website that houses journal, article and book sources (i.e., SWU library online--ATLA Religion).

GRADE EQUIVALENCY TABLE

All grades are reported in a system of eleven letter grades designated as "A" through "F" with appropriate plus and minus additions reflecting the following scheme:

Percentage Value	Letter Grade	Numeric Value for GPA
930-1000	A	4.0
900-929	A-	3.7
860-899	B+	3.4
820-859	B	3.0
800-819	B-	2.7

760-799	C+	2.4
720-759	C	2.0
700-719	C-	1.7
650-699	D+	1.4
600-659	D	1.0
0-599	F	0.0

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is a key to success in the course. Please refer to the Attendance Policy outlined in the Catalog for full details of the SWU policy on attendance.

Online attendance is based on completion of at least one designated assignment by the due date/time posted within the course site for each session. Online activities may include lecture, assignments, readings, discussion forums, and assessments (e.g. quizzes, tests).

Communication

The course site (Canvas) and SWU email are the primary tools for class communication, assignments, handouts, etc. All participants must have access to the course site and SWU e-mail and are expected to access them on a daily basis.

While it is important to maintain good communication with the instructor, Internet connectivity problems and home computer problems are not considered adequate excuses for missing assigned class work.

Technology Requirements

To be successful in this course, all participants are expected to ensure their technology equipment meets the [recommendations](http://www.swu.edu/about-swu/technology-services/computer-recommendations/) [\(http://www.swu.edu/about-swu/technology-services/computer-recommendations/\)](http://www.swu.edu/about-swu/technology-services/computer-recommendations/) provided by SWU's Technology Services.

Students requiring technical support related to their courses or other SWU-provided technologies should send an e-mail to helpdesk@swu.edu or call 864.644.5050.

Academic Honesty





Honesty in all matters - including honesty in academic endeavors - is a valued principle at Southern Wesleyan University. It is the expectation of the university that all those joining the academic program will act with integrity in all matters.














No forms of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Students are encouraged to help each other maintain these high standards. All academic dishonesty should be reported to the faculty directly. Faculty, upon evidence of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or misuse of another's intellectual property), either by voluntary confession, report of another student, or on the basis of work submitted, must follow the procedure outlined in the Catalog (under *Academic Honesty*). This includes but is not limited to a zero for the work involved, 10% course grade reduction, or a failing grade for the course. Unresolved cases may be appealed using the Appeal Process outlined in the Catalog (under *Academic Honesty*).








Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Southern Wesleyan University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Accommodations can be made for students with disabilities, as outlined in "Services for Students with Disabilities," found in mySWU's Student tab under The Learning Center. Any student desiring accommodations must send the request and all documentation to the Academic Coordinator at the learning site where he/she attends classes. The Academic Coordinator will forward the materials to the Student Success Coordinator for Southern Wesleyan University.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
	 God is Love https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945506	
	 Israel as a representation of God https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945509	
	 Justice https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945507	
	 Morality and virtue https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945512	

Date	Details	Due
	 Prayer (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945514)	
	 Research Paper (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945517)	
	 Rival Conceptions of God (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945510)	
	 Session Five Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945504)	
	 Session Five Individual Report (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945518)	
	 Session Four Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945502)	
	 Session Four Individual Report (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945519)	
	 Session One Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945501)	
	 Session Seven Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945505)	
	 Session Six Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945503)	
	 Session Six Individual Report (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945520)	
	 Session Three Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945499)	
	 Session Three Individual Report (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945521)	

Date	Details	Due
	 Session Two Exam (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945500)	
	 Session Two Individual Report (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945522)	
	 The Christian Virtues (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945513)	
	 The Church (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945516)	
	 The Cost of Being Christian (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945515)	
	 The Law of Human Nature (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945508)	
	 Theories of the Atonement (https://swu.instructure.com/courses/3203599/assignments/32945511)	