

Worldview 101: History of Philosophy
Speaking with Grace

Course Title: Worldview 101: A History of Philosophy

Instructor: Charis Baker, B.S., Political Science

Format: Live Zoom Classes, Discussion, Writing Assignments

Class Time: TBA depending on prospective student feedback

Dates: Mid-September through Mid-November

Level: High School*

Cost: \$149

*Minimum age 14 years old. No maximum age.

Nota Bene: Should there be significant interest, a second class time will be added to maintain discussion quality.

Course Description:

This course explores the dominant worldviews that have shaped Western society since the 1500s, drawing from Glenn Martin's *Prevailing Worldviews of Western Society Since 1500* as the central text. Through engaging live Zoom discussions in the classical style, students will examine key philosophical, theological, and cultural shifts that have influenced modern thought and behavior, from the Reformation and Enlightenment to Modernism and Postmodernism. All philosophies will be examined from a Biblical worldview.

Students will analyze the historical and intellectual roots of current societal values and assumptions, comparing biblical and secular perspectives on truth, authority, purpose, and human nature. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking, worldview discernment, and articulate expression.

Ideal For:

Students interested in philosophy, history, theology, or cultural studies; students seeking to understand & defend the roots of Western thought in a live, discussion-based format.

Course Features:

- **Live Weekly Zoom Classes** (1 hour each): Directed Socratic group discussion focused on weekly reading and surrounding concepts.
- **Writing Assignments:** At the end of weeks 2, 4, and 6, students will submit a short essay (2-5 pages) in response to a prompt based on the current reading.
- **Final Essay:** A comprehensive final essay (5-7 pages) will be submitted to evaluate the course text, specifically evaluating the historical shifts in worldview.
- **Reading:** *Prevailing Worldviews of Western Society Since 1500* by Glenn Martin (required text).

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Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain major Western worldviews from the 16th century onward.
- Analyze how these worldviews have shaped cultural institutions and personal belief systems.
- Compare and contrast secular and biblical frameworks on key philosophical and moral questions.
- Develop coherent arguments through structured writing assignments and discussions.

Course Grading & Assignments:

A percentage scale will be used and reflected in points earned on each assignment.

Assigned Reading	100 points (10%)
Class Participation	200 points (20%)
Week 2 Essay	150 points (15%)
Week 4 Essay	150 points (15%)
Week 6 Essay	150 points (15%)
Week 8 Final Essay	250 points (25%)

- Assignments will be graded according to the rubric provided at the beginning of class.
- Feedback provided via comments in Google Docs.

Required Items:

- [Prevailing Worldviews of Western Society Since 1500 - Amazon](#)**
- [Prevailing Worldviews of Western Society Since 1500 - Thriftbooks](#)**
- Device that is compatible with GoogleDocs & Zoom

**A physical text is preferred, but an electronic copy will be accepted provided it is easily accessible during class.