



COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Title: Understanding the Times

Teacher: Sam Shoaff

Contact Information:

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Office hours: 7am – 4pm (Tuesday – Friday)

Course Overview

“Our world revolves around ideas. Politicians, military leaders, CEOs, media moguls, and academics may think they are in charge of world affairs, but what they think—the ideas in their heads—actually control them. Ideas are the guiding force behind every twist and turn in public opinion. They determine what we accept or reject in the arts, media, business, science, education, politics, family, church, and the list goes on endlessly. We cannot understand what’s going on in the world until we look below the surface at the ideas that influence our beliefs and behaviors. These ideas can be grouped into six major worldviews. This curriculum is about the ideas that construct our worldviews. Everyone has a worldview, which helps them interpret what is happening around them. Christianity has an explanation for reality, but so does Islam, Secularism, Marxism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism. Each of these worldviews is founded upon a pattern of interconnected ideas. These worldviews dictate (consciously or unconsciously) how we interpret and respond to issues like stem-cell research, abortion, transgenderism, human rights, poverty, technology, etc. Make no mistake, these worldviews are at war. This curriculum will open your eyes to the factions competing for your heart and mind.”

My goal for this year is to compare different world views against Christian ideologies and help show students why we as Christians believe what we believe. I also hope students are able to better understand their faith as well as increase their hunger for the Kingdom of God.

Grading Scale:

- **Homework : 50%**
- **Participation & Preparedness : 30%**
- **Quizzes : 20%**

Week-by-Week Overview

Semester I	Semester II
Week 1 – The Battle of Ideas I	Week 19 – Ethics I
Week 2 – The Battle of Ideas II	Week 20 – Ethics II
Week 3 – Christianity I	Week 21 – Biology I
Week 4 – Christianity II	Week 22 – Biology II
Week 5 – Islam I	Week 23 – Psychology I
Week 6 – Islam II	Week 24 – Psychology II
Week 7 – Secularism I	Week 25 – Sociology I
Week 8 – Secularism II	Week 26 – Sociology II
Week 9 – Marxism I	Week 27 – Law I
Week 10 – Marxism II	Week 28 – Law II
Week 11 – New Spirituality I	Week 29 – Politics I
Week 12 – New Spirituality II	Week 30 – Politics II
Week 13 – Postmodernism I	Week 31 – Economics I
Week 14 – Postmodernism II	Week 32 – Economics II
Week 15 – Theology I	Week 33 – History I
Week 16 – Theology II	Week 34 – History II
Week 17 – Philosophy I	Week 35 – Conclusion of Course I
Week 18 – Philosophy II	Week 36 – Conclusion of Course II

Supplies Needed for this Course:

*Student Workbook and Textbook **See Website*

Notebook

Pen / Pencil

The Classroom:

We will have discussions and lesson-based activities. Some will be straight from the book, and some will come organically from topics in the curriculum. Students are expected to interact and actively participate.

At Home:

You will have 3 homework assignments each week due back at the next class. Please have someone check your work and initial the box saying you completed the homework and to the best of your ability.

How to Get an ‘A’ in this Class:

Come ready to participate and be prepared. Make sure to do homework assignments every week, including content directly used in quizzes and assignments.

Extra Credit – 10%

Handwrite the 95 Theses of Martin Luther. Come to me and I will provide the content.

Absence and Late Work Policies

See your Partnership Agreement for these policies. I WILL NOT accept any homework that is over 2 class periods late unless it has been worked out prior with me. You must email or speak to me to work out a new assignment date for sickness, vacations, or any other reasons for missing class.

Expectations:

You may expect the Teacher to:

- Be prepared, on time, and fair in the classroom.
- Respond to email messages within 24 hours.
- Be available for conferences or discussions per appointment.
- Work hard to see every student succeed.
- Be available by email to answer questions or concerns.

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I will expect the Parents to:

- Be aware of the current assignments for their students.
- Oversee the work at home making sure that students complete the assignments.
- Provide the materials the students need to be successful in this class.
- Contact the teacher if there are any problems.
- Check grades every week to see how their child is doing. This is **IMPERATIVE**.

I will expect the Student to:

- Be polite and respectful. (See the Code of Conduct)
- Keep current with all assignments.
- Do all their own work with honesty and integrity.
- Ask questions and ask for help when they need it.
- Be prepared for class. (that includes course material, notebook, and writing utensils)