

# COURSE SYLLABUS for HIS 499 – **HISTORY of PHILOSOPHY**

Alternative Titles: HISTORY OF IDEAS, WORLD PHILOSOPHY

**Arizona Christian University**

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Spring Semester 2012

Tuesday/Thursday 4:30 to 5:45 PM

Room: SAC 100

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

‘A broad yet in-depth investigation of the History of Ideas about Truth and Reality’ in which we will conduct a survey of the **History of Philosophy** along with a categorized **Worldview Critique**. *Classic philosophical questions* (Metaphysical, Epistemological, & Ethical) are correlated with the *most basic assumptions* about reality upon which all worldviews are variously constructed. Along with this synoptic design we will utilize elemental but indispensable **principles of Logic** to ‘test ideas’ and to assess several major worldview options by rigorously evaluating their prime propositions and arguments.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**


The student is expected to appreciably:

1. Become conversant with the **history of philosophy**, identifying the **key ideas** and influential thinkers.
2. Demonstrate a deep knowledge of **worldviews**, detecting their basic under-girding assumptions. Apply **logical** criteria to scrutinize them for validity, meaning, and ultimately for **Truth**.
3. Evaluate those philosophical, political, and spiritual movements & ideologies prevalent today, while learning to express the authentic **Biblical Worldview**:  
Judeo-Christian Historic-Revelatory Ethical-Communal Redemptive Monotheism

## **TEXTBOOKS & MANUALS** [You are responsible for printing and assembling *your own* Manuals.]

 THE TEXTBOOK for the History of Western Philosophy:

*LOOKING AT PHILOSOPHY*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Donald Palmer. McGraw Hill, 2010. ISBN 978-0-07-340748-7

 YOUR MANUAL for the **Eras of the History of Philosophy** is obtainable at: **profboville.com**

 THE TEXTBOOK for the Logical Critique of Worldviews:

*THE UNIVERSE NEXT DOOR*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. James Sire. IVP, 2009 ISBN 978-0-8308-3850-9 [The 4<sup>th</sup> ed. is preferable; either will do.]

 YOUR MANUALS for **Logic** and the **Worldview Critique** are obtainable at: **profboville.com**

**The Three Course Manuals contain assignments *and* outlines you’ll need before class.  
Form the good habit of preparing for each scheduled class by studying *that unit* ahead.**


See the **Master-Schedule** attached (pp 5 & 6.) Extra copies will be given. The wise student will laminate, post, and *religiously follow* this schedule to insure unwavering readiness for success in a *profoundly* challenging course!

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### ➤ ATTEND CLASS 'ATTENTIVELY.' *That means ALERT and FULLY PREPARED.*

ACU students are certainly expected to obey the rules of mature CLASSROOM DECORUM!

Tardiness, *discourteous conduct* and absences will hurt your grade *and* interfere with your learning.

 Attend with: open mind, manuals, pen & paper only... **NO** exocortical technologies or communications devices.

**The instructor has banned all Laptops, I-Pads, BlackBerries, and cell-phones, etc. from her classroom!**

This class is for honing **THINKING** (memory, analysis, vocabulary) **SKILLS**, *not* technological abilities.

**Rules of 'attentive behavior' must be observed. Attendance Policy is strict and non-negotiable:**

For each session missed, **20 points** will be subtracted from your final point tally.

AND, for *any* transgression of proper classroom etiquette, *at least 25 points* will be deducted.

Immaturity, chatting, eating in class, interrupting, acting like 'high school students' are a few examples of improper behavior. Doing other homework in class is disrespectful & counter-productive to our objectives. [=30 point penalty.]

### ➤ READ TEXTBOOKS AND MANUALS STRICTLY FOLLOWING THE COURSE SCHEDULE!

There will be **REAMS** of difficult reading for this course. **Do not fall behind!** Always be prepared to **be quizzed on all** course material. *If you have a problem with reading comprehension, get tutoring.* Reading skills are imperative.

### ➤ ORGANIZE YOUR MANUALS CAREFULLY. KEEP THEM UP-TO-DATE!

**H of Ph:** Most Era Summaries contain **Quizzes**. They should help you comprehend the material.

**WV:** Each unit contains a **Blank 7 BQ** for you to fill-out. Some units contain Lecture Outlines you will need *during* the scheduled class, and some contain **Study Guides**. It is your responsibility to **fill these in**.

### ➤ TAKE TWO EXTENSIVE EXAMS!

Your comprehension will be tested by a Mid-Term and Final Exam. These tests make you review **all** course materials. They contain several types of questions and exercises.

### ➤ EXPRESS in WRITING that you *have* pondered deeply over the tough subject matter.

This Critical-Thinking Assignment can be a **FORMAL PAPER - or - AN APPROVED PROJECT** (May even be done in groups.)

**Describe** in rapt detail how you are **applying** the extensive course materials to your own career, ministry, and your communal or personal journey. **Explain** how philosophical work *and* **worldview concepts** relate to a believer's "*lifelong learning*."

Express how these **tools** and **ideas** effectually inform / transform you as you strive to become **a sound-minded Christian in a confounded world**.

**GRADING:** [**NOTE:** IF non-academic activities impede attendance, you need to make special arrangements.]

**000 points** *for* your polite **Attendance...**and your **Quiz readiness!**

(Your absences, infractions, and any 'wrong answers' from quizzes are subtracted *from* your final point tally.)

**400 points** *for* the **Mid-Term Exam** (Includes Memorization Page *and* Logic Test **taken IN class!**)

**400 points** *for* the **Final Exam** (Includes **Inspection** of selected Manual Assignments.)

**200 points** *for* the **Critical Thought Paper** [8 - 10 pages.] (Or, an approved '**Good Idea Project**')

**1000** total possible points. *Accumulating conduct demerits or being unprepared for class will devour these points!*

### THE REMAINDER OF THIS SYLLABUS CONTAINS: ⇨

**P. 3, 4** — **ACU Policies & Goal Checklist**    **P. 5, 6** — **Master Schedule**    **P. 7, 8** — **Select Bibliography** and **List of Websites**    **P. 9, 10** — **Content Guides For WV Units & H of P Eras**    **P. 11, 12** — **The 7 Basic Qs**

 A helpful one-page "**OVERALL COURSE DESIGN**" will be given out on our first day.



*Our school is blessed with a quality LIBRARY.  
Plan to spend lots of quality time therein and you will be blessed!*

## **PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THESE ACU POLICIES:**

### **Study Time:**

Most University courses require that students spend a **significant** amount of time outside of class in individual study time. A guideline is to spend 2 – 3 hours per week for every credit hour. This means that in a 3 credit course 6 – 9 hours of outside study per week would be expected *at a minimum*. The actual in-class meeting time is short in University courses because it is expected that students work independently outside of class in order to meet the course requirements.

### **Accommodation and Special Needs:**

Your instructor is willing to make any reasonable adaptations for limitations due to any disability, including learning disability, in keeping with **ACU** policies and the Student Handbook. Any student with documented certifiable special needs should contact the office of the Academic Advisor on campus and they will inform me of the proper accommodations you require. If you have a special need, even on a temporary basis, it is your responsibility to contact this office as soon as possible to disclose your disability information and discuss your accommodation needs. Students are required to make their requests in writing using the *Accommodation Request and Documentation Form* and document their disability in accordance with **ACU** policies and procedures. Documentation of the disability must be current (not older than 1 year) and provided by a qualified health care professional such as a diagnosing or current physician, psychiatrist or psychologist. It must comply with the requirements for documentation outlined on the *Accommodation Request and Documentation Form*. Accommodations are not retroactive. **ACU** reserves the right to verify all professional documentation and determine reasonable accommodation for any disability, including learning disability. Please see the Student Handbook for current detailed information regarding accommodation and special needs.

### **Retention of Examinations and Assignments:**

Instructors will retain copies of student examinations and assignments not returned to students for one semester in case of dispute between a faculty member and a student in assigning or recording a grade. After that time, instructors may discard course materials in a manner that preserves student confidentiality.

### **E-mail Policy:**

Students are issued an official **Arizona Christian University** student email address when they are admitted to the University. These addresses all have the same form: [firstname.lastname@arizonachristian.edu](mailto:firstname.lastname@arizonachristian.edu). This is the only electronic mailing address recognized by the University. Students are responsible for all official University communications, including attachments, transmitted to this address. **ACU** faculty and staff are not responsible for forwarding email to personal email accounts that are not assigned by the University.

Students are required to check their **ACU** email on a daily basis.

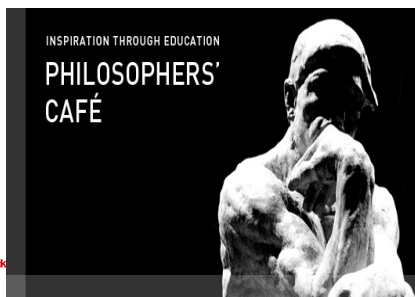
*This syllabus is subject to slight modifications, of which you will be informed by the instructor.*

## STUDENT GOALS - REQUIREMENTS INVENTORY

Use this as a personal “checklist” ✓ to be sure that you are meeting our objectives:

1. Define **PHILOSOPHY**. Define its 4 most important sub-disciplines.  
Memorize the general Chronology of the **8 Eras** of our “History of Philosophy.”
2. Define (and understand) **WORLDVIEW**. Understand what a ‘Basic Assumption’ is.  
Memorize (and fathom the perplexing depths of) our Seven Basic Questions. “**7BQs**”
3. Understand our manifold **CRITERIA** for any intelligibly meaningful Worldview.  
 Utilize the **7BQs** as a method for comparing/contrasting/analyzing WVs.
4. Memorize the ‘**LAWS OF LOGIC**’ and the “**INFORMAL FALLACIES**” Portion of Unit I.  
**All of the above WILL be tested in the Midterm Memorization Portion. You’ve been warned!**
5. Read (and re-read if necessary) BOTH Textbooks strictly according to our schedule.  
 Pay close attention to the given Content Guides to help aim your highlighter!
6. Carefully maintain your 3 Manuals. (Printed out from [profboville.com](http://profboville.com) and assembled in nice binders.)  
 The manuals **organize** the **WV Critique & History of Philosophy Survey**, so **be sure to:**
  - a. Answer all 7BQs according to each WV. (You may use Sire’s lists of tenets/propositions.)
  - b. Study the extra articles, aides & charts in the Ten **WV** Units and Eight **HofP** Eras.
  - c. Fill out any Study Guides completely. 📁 They can be collected **any time!**
  - d. Take all Quizzes embedded in the Era Summaries. 📁 They can be collected **any time!**
  - e. Always be thinking of how to correlate our WV critique with Philosophy’s history.
  - f. **Enjoy the Notebooks!** ⌚ Spend time with them! [It reinforces the massive content.]
7. Truly **ponder** over the issues. Don’t be afraid to **doubt**. Experience sheer **wonder**.  
 Please **think** more than you ever have before! Try to deepen your **contemplation of:**  
 ...The Raw Brute Fact of Existence Itself...Ultimate Reality?...The Character of God...Divine Intent & Disclosure...  
 ...The Stupendous Complexity of the Cosmos...The Human Disease & Quandary... The “Meaning of Life”...  
 ...The Unlearned Lessons of History...The Abandonment of the Search for Truth...The Groan for Redemption...

*Your work, and your conduct, shows how seriously you’re involving yourself in all this.  
 How mature is your mental discipline?  
 How purely do you reflect God’s majesty and holiness?  
 Do you strive to love Him with ‘all your mind’? How passionate are you for **Truth**?*



<p><b>Tue. &amp; Thur.</b> 4:30 - 5:45 PM</p>	<p><b>ATTEND CLASS</b> <b>ALREADY HAVING READ:</b> <u>Sire &amp; Palmer TEXTBOOKS</u> <u>AND WV &amp; H of P MANUALS</u> (See profboville.com)</p>	<p><b>ARRIVE PREPARED, Having Read and Pondered</b> <b>The SUBJECT MATTER BELOW:</b> What you see in Brackets is: [ How the <b>HofP Eras</b> relate to our <b>WV</b> Discussions ]</p>
<p>Jan. 17 and 19</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 1 &amp; WV Unit 1 Palmer, Ch. 1 &amp; 2 to p. 58 HofP Eras 1 and 2</p>	<p>What is <b>Philosophy</b>? What is a <b>Worldview</b>? [The Pre-Socratics; Athenian Sophists, Socrates] <b>Basic Qs and Assumptions,</b> [“Unsolved Perplexities” and Philosophical Dilemmas]</p>
<p>Jan 24 and 26</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 1 &amp; WV Unit 1 Palmer, Ch. 2 (rest of) Ch. 3 (all) HofP Eras 2 and 3</p>	<p><b>LOGIC: Laws of Thought and Meaning</b> Set the <b>CRITERIA</b> for Examining Worldviews [Plato and Aristotle] [Hellenistic Philosophies]</p>
<p>Jan 31 and Feb 2</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 2 &amp; WV Unit 2 Palmer, Ch. 4 (all) HofP Eras 4 and 5</p>	<p><b>THEISMS</b> – Biblical <i>vs.</i> Other ‘Gods’ [The Medieval Christian Synthesis] [Universals &amp; Particulars; Faith &amp; Reason] [The Renaissance challenges Medieval Theism]</p>
<p>Feb 7 and 9</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 3 &amp; WV Unit 3 Palmer, Ch. 5 (all) HofP Era 6</p>	<p><b>DEISM</b> the Religion of Reason [Enlightenment Epistemology] [Rationalists <i>vs.</i> Empiricists] [The Kantian “Copernican” Revolution]</p>
<p>Feb 14 and 16</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 4 &amp; WV Unit 4 Palmer, Ch. 6 (part of) HofP Era 7</p>	<p><b>NATURALISMS</b> – Nature is All There Is [The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Upheavals] [Evolutionism] [Dialectical Idealism ad Materialism]</p>
<p>Feb 21 and 23</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 5 &amp; WV Unit 5 Palmer, Ch. 6 (rest of) HofP Era 7</p>	<p><b>NIHILISM</b> – A <i>Dead</i> End [Nietzsche – God is Dead and we usurp his role] [Schopenhauer – The World is My Will] [Utilitarianism] [Frege – Modern Logic]</p>
<p>Feb 28 and Mar 1</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 6 &amp; WV Unit 6a Palmer, Ch. 7 HofP Era 8</p>	<p><b>ATHEISTIC EXISTENTIALISM</b> -- The Attempt to ‘Transcend’ Nihilism “<i>Anguished Freedom</i>” [Phenomenology; Heidegger; Sartre]</p>
<p>Mar 6 and 8 <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> <b>DUE on the 8<sup>th</sup>!</b></p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 6 &amp; WV Unit 6b Palmer, Ch. 6 (reread) HofP Eras 7 &amp; 8 (reread)</p>	<p><b>THEISTIC EXISTENTIALISM</b> The Attempt to Revitalize Dead Theism [<b>Kierkegaard’s ‘Knightly Faith’</b>] [Subjective Truth, Religious Feelings, False prophets]</p>

<p><b>Tue. &amp; Thur.</b> 4:30 - 5:45 PM</p>	<p><b>YOU HAVE READ</b> And are confident to be <b>Quizzed</b> on:</p>	<p><b>ARRIVE PREPARED TO</b> Discuss and to <b>RECEIVE MORE</b> Information <b>ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:</b></p>
<p>Mar 20 and 22</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 7 WV Unit 7</p>	<p><b>EASTERN PANTHEISTIC MONISM</b> Eastern Thoughts in Western Minds [Which <i>Western</i> Philosophers were most 'Oriented' to the East?]</p>
<p>Mar 27 and 29</p>	<p>"</p>	<p><b>EASTERN PANTHEISTIC MONISM</b> Deeper Answers to the 7 Basic Questions?</p>
<p>Apr 3 and 5</p>	<p>"</p>	<p><b>ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE SAME GOD</b> 'The Ways To Reach the Infinite Must Also Be Infinite'</p>
<p>Apr 10 and 12</p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 8 WV Unit 8</p>	<p><b>The NEW AGE MOVEMENT</b> <i>Worldview Syncretism</i></p>
<p>Apr 17 and 19</p>	<p><b>Unit 8 has a lot of</b> Required Readings. <b>Be sure to keep up!</b></p>	<p>The Historical Roots of the <b>NAM</b> Its Founders and 'Inspired' Scriptures [Review the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Era – <i>Why</i> so Open to 'New Revelation'?]</p>
<p>Apr 24* and 26 <b>*PROJECT DUE !</b></p>	<p>"</p>	<p><i>The Panoramic Influence of New Age Ideology</i> <i>Christian Apostasy</i></p>
<p>May 1 <b>FINAL EXAM</b> <b>DUE !!</b></p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 9 &amp; WV Unit 9 Palmer, Ch. 7 (related pages) And HofP Era 8</p>	<p><b>POSTMODERNISM</b> <b>TRUTH DECAY</b> [20<sup>th</sup> c. Pragmatism; The Analytic Philosophies] [Structuralism; Deconstructionism]</p>
<p>May 3<sup>rd</sup></p>	<p>Sire, Ch. 10 WV Unit 10</p>	<p><b>CONCLUSION</b></p>



## LINKS *for* ONGOING STUDY OF IDEAS



### CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS AND WORLDVIEW ISSUES

[www.answers.org](http://www.answers.org) “Answers in Action”

[www.apologetics.com](http://www.apologetics.com) Has some good links

[www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org) “Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry”

[www.designinference.com](http://www.designinference.com) William Dembski’s site

[www.discovery.org](http://www.discovery.org) Info on “**I.D.**” from the Discovery Institute

[www.hisdefense.org](http://www.hisdefense.org) The site for the “Academy of Christian Apologetics”

[www.ivpress.com/groothuis](http://www.ivpress.com/groothuis) To find works by Douglas and Rebecca Groothuis

[www.leaderu.com](http://www.leaderu.com) The site for the “Leadership University”

[www.origins.org](http://www.origins.org) To find a number of helpful articles

[www.peterkreeft.com](http://www.peterkreeft.com) Dr. Peter Kreeft is a philosophy professor and witty author

[www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org) (must register) features Dr. William Lane Craig

[www.RZIM.org](http://www.RZIM.org) “Ravi Zacharias International Ministries”

[www.scp-inc.org](http://www.scp-inc.org) The “Spiritual Counterfeits Project”—Journal and info on cults, *etc.*

[www.tmch.net/resources.html](http://www.tmch.net/resources.html) “Teaching Minds Changing Hearts” toward a Biblical WV

### “THINKING THEISTS”

[www.christiancadre.org](http://www.christiancadre.org) “Christian Colligation of Apologetics Debate Research and Evangelism”  
An ecumenical site; it provides research tools, links to several ‘virtual offices’ of prominent Christian philosophers, and scholarly papers on a variety of issues

[www.philchristi.org](http://www.philchristi.org) The “Evangelical Philosophical Society”

[www.siu.edu/~scp](http://www.siu.edu/~scp) The Society of Christian Philosophers (should pay dues and join!)  
Their Journal is available at [www.faihandphilosophy.com](http://www.faihandphilosophy.com)

[www.str.org](http://www.str.org) “Stand To Reason”

[www.veritas.org](http://www.veritas.org) The Veritas (Truth) Forum. Register and download excellent university level presentations by Os Guinness and other widely respected speakers.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR PHILOSOPHY AND WORLDVIEW STUDIES

- Blocker, H. Gene. *World Philosophy: An East–West Comparative Introduction to Philosophy*. Prentice Hall, 1999.
- Fieser, James & Lillegard, Norman. *A Historical Introduction to Philosophy with Texts and Interactive Guides*. Oxford U. Press, 2002.
- Fogelin, Robert. *Walking the Tightrope of Reason: The Precarious Life of a Rational Animal*. Oxford U. Press, 2003. [For advanced students.]
- Geisler, Norman L. & Brooks, R. M. *Come, Let Us Reason: An Introduction to Logical Thinking*. Baker Books, 1990.
- “ & Hoffman, Paul K., editors. *Why I am a Christian: Leading Thinkers Explain Why They Believe*. Baker Books, 2001.
- Gould, James A. & Mulvaney, Robert J. *Classic Philosophical Questions, 10th Ed.* Prentice Hall, 2001.
- Groothuis, Douglas. *Are All Religions One?* Inter-Varsity Press (IVP), 1996.
- “ *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. IVP, 2000.
- Guinness, Os. *The Dust of Death: A Critique of the Counter Culture*. IVP, 1973. [Anything by Os is recommended; hear his lectures via the Veritas Forum.]
- Herrick, James A. *The Making of the New Spirituality: The Eclipse of the Western Religious Tradition*. IVP, 2003. [Essential background to New Age.]
- Kolak, Daniel. *From the Pre-Socratics to the Present*. Mayfield Publishing, 1998.
- “ *Lovers of Wisdom*. Wadsworth, 2001. [Professor Kolak is challenging but always interesting.]
- Kreeft, Peter & Tacelli, Ronald. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. IVP, 1994.
- Lewis, C.S. *Miracles: A Preliminary Study*. Fontana, 1987. [Classic C. S. Lewis! On the instructor’s all-time favorite book list!]
- Magee, Bryan. *The Story of Thought: An Essential Guide to the History of Western Philosophy*. QPB/DK Publishing, Inc. 1998. [Beautiful!!!]
- Melchert, Norman. *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*. Mayfield Publishing, 1999. [A superior textbook.]
- Middleton, J.R. & Walsh, B.J. *Truth is Stranger than It Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. IVP, 1995.
- Miller, Ed. L. *Questions That Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy*, 2nd Shorter Ed. McGraw-Hill, 1998.
- Netland, Harold A. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth*. Eerdmans, 1991.
- Newport, John P. *The New Age Movement and the Biblical Worldview*. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Occhiogrosso, Peter. *The Joy of Sects: A Spirited Guide to the World’s Religious Traditions*. Doubleday, 1994.
- Pals, Daniel L. *Seven Theories of Religion*. Oxford University Press, 1996
- Percy, Walker. *Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self-Help Book*. WSP, 1983. [Hilarious but makes a profound point!]
- Rauhut, Nils. *Ultimate Questions: Thinking About Philosophy*. Pearson Education, 2004.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *The Complete Works: A Christian Worldview Vol. I, A Christian View of Philosophy and Culture*. Crossway Books, 1982.
- Schlossberg, Herbert. *Idols for Destruction: The Conflict of Christian Faith and American Culture*. T. Nelson, 1983.
- “ & Olasky, Martin. *Turning Point: A Christian Worldview Declaration*. Good News/Crossway, 1987.
- Sire, James W. *Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life as a Christian Calling*. IVP, 2000.
- “ *Naming the Elephant: Worldview as Concept*. IVP, 2004.
- Smith, Christian J. *Christian America? What Evangelicals Really Want*. U. of California Press, 2000. [See also *The Secular Revolution* edited by Smith.]
- Smith, Huston. *The Illustrated World’s Religions*. Harper, 1994.
- Solomon, Robert C. & Higgins, Kathleen M. *A Passion for Wisdom: A Very Brief History of Philosophy*. Oxford U. Press, 1997.
- Sorensen, Roy. *A Brief History of the Paradox: Philosophy and the Labyrinths of the Mind*. Oxford U. Press, 2003. [Witty and fun!]
- Soulen, R. Kendall. *The God of Israel and Christian Theology*. Fortress, 1996. [This is indispensable.]
- Wilson, Marvin R. *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith*. Eerdmans, 1989. [A ‘Must-Read’ for true disciples and a Biblical WV!]
- Zacharias, Ravi. *A Shattered Visage: The Real Face of Atheism*. Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1990.
- “ *Deliver Us From Evil: Restoring the Soul in a Disintegrating Culture*. Word Publishing, 1997.

<p align="center"><b>EIGHT Eras of The HISTORY of IDEAS</b> Memorize these:</p>	<p align="center">Be Familiar with the most significant philosophers/ies What were their ‘issues’ and [How do they relate to WVs?]</p>
<p>The <b>PRE-SOCRATIC</b> Launch The 6<sup>th</sup> c. — 5<sup>th</sup> c. BCE</p>	<p align="center">Discuss the alleged shift from “mythos to logos.” From Thales to the Atomists...what were they looking for? What legacy did they leave to us? To their own times? [How are their dilemmas instructive as to WV problems?] [(e.g.—Appearance vs. Reality, Form vs. Matter, Permanence vs. Change)]</p>
<p>The <b>ATHENIAN</b> Zenith The 5<sup>th</sup> c. — 4<sup>th</sup> c. BCE</p>	<p align="center">Athens as an intellectual &amp; cultural leader. Sophists as innovators in education. Socrates as the greatest teacher of all. Plato’s Theory of Forms; Metaphysical Dualism Aristotle disagrees with Plato’s Forms; the Prime Mover [Sophists as early humanists? Did Plato &amp; Aristotle impact theology?]</p>
<p>The <b>HELLENISTIC</b> Way 4<sup>th</sup> c. BCE to the 4<sup>th</sup> c. CE</p>	<p align="center">Describe the Greco-Roman World. Know the “Way of Life” philosophies that flourished and competed with that new “Christian” movement: Epicureanism Stoicism Neo-Platonism [Find roots of Hedonism, Pantheism, Mysticism, Religious Syncretism in the Hellenistic Period. Cf. the Hebraic Biblical WV with Hellenistic philosophy]</p>
<p>The <b>MEDIEVAL</b> Mind The 5<sup>th</sup> c. to the 13<sup>th</sup> c.</p>	<p align="center">W. Roman Empire collapses and the R.C. Church rises to power. Describe the general Medieval WV. The great thinkers of this era are Churchmen: Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, the Scholastics Issues: Faith &amp; Reason, Universals &amp; Particulars, Proving God Exists? [Was the “Medieval Christian Synthesis” Biblical? How so...How not?]</p>
<p>The <b>RENAISSANCE</b> World The 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> c.</p>	<p align="center">These few centuries turned the world upside down! Discuss the tumultuous impact of the Humanist Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution Are Faith and Reason beginning to split apart? [These upheavals set up the next Age’s quest for certainty, and Deism’s rise.]</p>
<p>The <b>ENLIGHTENMENT</b> Age The 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> c.</p>	<p align="center">This is the beginning of the Modern Age! Philosophy is obsessed with “Knowing”—the two main schools of <i>how we know</i>: Rationalists vs. Empiricists Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz vs. Locke, Berkeley &amp; Hume...then KANT solves the problem and “revolutionizes” epistemology. What happens to Knowing God? [The “Age of Reason” is crucial for WVs, for some are still in its grip, others revolt against it!]</p>
<p>The <b>19<sup>th</sup> Century</b> The Age of ?</p>	<p align="center">This is the beginning of widespread Secularism AND Spiritualism! Major philosophical influences: Hegel, Schopenhauer, Marx, Nietzsche, the Utilitarians, Frege, ...not to mention Darwin! [The Bible <i>and</i> traditional philosophy both lose ground... there even begins an incursion of Eastern religion in the west, as well as a revival of paganism. What does the Church do to meet these challenges?]</p>
<p>The <b>20<sup>th</sup> Century</b> An Era of ?! <i>What now, Philosophy?</i></p>	<p align="center">Pragmatism, Logical Positivism. Linguistic Analysis, Deconstructionism, and Existentialism. [We are now POSTMODERN—Absolutely Relativistic] A century of: New Physics, World Wars, Genocide, Nuclear Threat, Space Travel, Computers, Consumerism, Eugenics, Terrorism, New Plagues, Information Proliferation without wisdom... and now a new millennium...where ARE we going? Will there be a New Age? What is Truth?</p>

Unit 1	<b>WORLDVIEWS</b> Introduction Evaluative Criteria	Define <b>“Worldview.”</b> Establish what <b>“Basic Assumptions”</b> are. Discuss how Worldviews are formed and function for individuals & societies. Memorize, discuss, <i>and appreciate</i> the <b>“Seven Basic Questions.” (7BQs)</b> Establish the method and <b>criteria</b> for evaluating Worldviews. Learn the 3 essential Laws of Thought and Meaning. Study <b>LOGIC.</b>
Unit 2	<b>THEISMS</b>	Recognize several <i>kinds</i> of Theism & see <i>why</i> they differ. <i>Can</i> God be known? What is reliable Revelation? See the radical distinctiveness of Judeo-Christian Biblical Theism by virtue of two key realities: <b>*Character *Relationship</b> <b>Answer the 7 BQs</b> according to “Mere” Christian Theism. <i>Baruch ha Shem!</i>
Unit 3	<b>DEISM</b>	Context for the Enlightenment is: The <i>‘Dissolution of the Medieval Synthesis’</i> An unraveling due to the: <i>Renaissance, Reformation, and Revolution in Science.</i> Now a <b>‘Clockwork World with a Clockmaker God.’</b> <i>Listen to eloquent Deists!</i> Critique Deism’s ‘Perfect systematic rationality of Creator-Creation-Creature.’ <b>Answer 7 BQs</b> according to Deism and notice its inner-inconsistencies.
Unit 4	<b>NATURALISMS</b>	List several ‘brand-name’ Naturalistic WVs. How must they answer all questions? (From within the closed system of Nature as the <i>all there is!</i> ) What are the deeper implications of Naturalism as a description of Reality? Know the real difference between Scientism <i>which is NOT scientific</i> and Science! <b>Answer 7 BQs</b> according to Naturalism.’ Which Q exposes a fatal flaw?
Unit 5	<b>NIHILISM</b>	Strict Naturalism leads inexorably to Nihilism. Explain the “Three Bridges”: 1) Metaphysical 2) Epistemological 3) Moral More consistent than Naturalism, but is it livable? Can Nihilism even be expressed? Can Nihilism be “transcended”? No Answers to the <b>7 BQs</b> according to Nihilism. (But Unit 6 has two sets.)
Unit 6	<b>EXISTENTIALISM</b> Atheistic <i>and</i> Theistic	Begin with “the courageous <b>attempt to transcend Nihilism.”</b> Discuss: “Existence Precedes Essence” “We Are Condemned To Be Free” Atheists understandably, but...what makes a Theist ‘go existential’? How can we balance the Subjective and Objective aspects of Theism? What is “Easter Faith” if the Resurrection is not historic fact? <b>Answer 2 sets of 7 BQs as an Existentialist;</b> one Atheistic and one Theistic.
Unit 7	<b>EASTERN PANTHEISTIC MONISM</b>	Review all WVs thus far. See how Western Thought failed and ‘turned East.’ Discuss the widespread appeal of Eastern Thought. Why is it so charming? <b>Define Monism and Pantheism.</b> Discuss several Eastern Religions. <b>Answer 7 BQs</b> according to P-M ( <i>Hindu style.</i> ) Answers or non-answers? <i>‘Neti’</i>
Unit 8	<b>NEW AGE MOVEMENT</b>	A WV Syncretism/Spiritual Synthesis. Define: <i>‘Cosmic Consciousness’,</i> <i>‘Global Transformation’, ‘Age of Aquarius.’</i> Background in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century. Theosophy & Occult Paganism. Who are the NA Elite and their ‘Servers’? Planetary Cleansing and Antisemitism in the New World Order? New Age infiltration into Christianity <i>via</i> “Cosmic Christ Consciousness” Counterfeit <b>PLAN</b> for redemption. = Luciferic Initiation.
Unit 9	<b>POSTMODERNISM</b>	Relativism as Absolute. No Metanarrative. Back to Sophism & Skepticism? Is there No Objective Reality? No Truth? It’s all in the ‘saying’? <i>Who Says?!</i> Good to discard Modernism; but then, is ‘Pomo’ just a Secular Mysticism?
Unit 10	<b>YOUR OWN CONCLUSION</b>	Which WV truly ‘passes the test’ & meets all the criteria? ( <i>i.e.</i> - Its tenets conform to reality and obey the laws of thought, validity, meaning, & verity.) Reconsider JCBTheism as <b>TRUTH</b> – Compose <i>your own</i> conclusion to course.

# “SEVEN BASIC QUESTIONS”

A Discussion of the *Questions as Questions*...What exactly is being asked?

**Has anything *already been assumed* even before asking such questions?!**

[ = There **IS** Something rather than Nothing, and the questioner seems **Conscious** of it! ]

## **1. What Is Ultimate** (ETERNAL; SELF-EXISTING; PRIME; ABSOLUTE) **Reality?**

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## **2. What Is The Nature Of External Reality?** (That Objective Reality **THERE** of which we seem **AWARE!**)

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## **3. What Is A Human Being?** (Those annoying beings who'd want to ask such questions!)

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**4. What Happens To Us At Death?**

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**5. How/Why Is It Possible To Know Anything At All?**

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**6. How Can We Distinguish Right from Wrong?**

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**7. What Is The Meaning & Purpose of History?**

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