

World History, Art, & Philosophy encountering a Christian Worldview

Firm Foundation Schoolhouse
Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church
Wednesdays @ 9:45 – 10:45 am
Teacher: Pastor Kevin Park
kevin@godsgracealone.com

Course Description: This course will help students identify the ebb and flow of culture, art, and philosophy using a Christian lens to analyze the patterns of the past. It will encourage students to connect Christianity to their understanding of history, thus grounding historical understanding in a firm foundation. The mission of the class is nothing short of boldly looking at history to see where culture might have gotten the better of Christianity, and moments where Christianity helped bless culture.

Media & Texts:

- How Should We Then Live? (Videos) by Francis Schaeffer (freely available online or DVD loan)
- *Christianity: The Biography* by Ian Shaw
- Art and the Bible by Francis Schaeffer
- Instructor selected primary source texts (as handouts)
- Texts the pupil uses to assist in deep dive assignments



Additional Supplies:

- A notebook (if hand written), or binder (if typed) that will hold all course assignments.
- Timeline book to establish where events fall (optional)

Purposes:

1. Understand the nature of bias, and how the bias of God relieves historical senselessness.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the wider historical and cultural context in which Christianity emerged and has existed as a world religion
3. Understand the strong historical foundation upon which Christianity is based
4. Comprehend the advantages and challenges Christianity would and has faced as a result of the context in which it emerged
5. Learn how to consider media, arts, and movements in both the past and our own day from a Christian worldview.

How to succeed in this course:

1. Read the coursework and complete the questions and assignments, **BEFORE** coming to class, taking notes as you go, and being prepared to both share and discuss the content.
2. Review and prepare for quizzes and exams.
3. Reading and participation in discussion is highly encouraged. This is a “classically inspired” course. This means that I expect the students to come prepared, having read the assigned chapters, in order to participate in discussions.

Grading:

I will grade quizzes and exams on an A+ to F scale. Workbook assignments will not be graded but will be marked as either completed or not completed. I will give feedback on the student’s preparedness,

participation in class and diligence for their coursework. If asked, I will suggest the grade to give the student. However ultimately the parent will decide the most appropriate final grade for their student.

Anticipated Course Schedule

This schedule may be adjusted as needed, but assignments listed are due the DAY OF that class.

1st Semester

8/17 – Have all course materials – Introductory lesson

8/24 – Have watched episodes 1-5 (2.5 hours of video) of How Should We Then Live?

Present general outlines of topics covered for all 5 episodes.

8/31 – Have watched episodes 6-10 (2.5 hours of video) of How Should We Then Live?

Present general outlines of topics covered for all 5 episodes.

9/7 – Read the introduction (Shaw) & answer questions.

9/14 – Read chapter 1 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

9/21 – Read chapter 2 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

9/28 – Read chapter 3 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

Fall Break

10/12 – Read chapter 4 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

10/19 – Read chapter 5 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

10/26 – Read chapter 6 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

11/2 – Read chapter 7 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

11/9 – Read chapter 8 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

11/16 – Read chapter 9 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

Thanksgiving Break

12/7 – Read chapter 10 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

12/14 – Read chapter 11 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

(Take-home midterm to complete during the break)

2nd Semester

1/18 – Bring completed midterm, Have Read Art & The Bible (Chapter 1) w/questions

1/25 – Have Read Art & The Bible (Chapter 2) w/questions

2/1 – Analyze media/artwork assignments

2/8 – Analyze media/artwork assignments

2/15 – Read chapter 12 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

2/22 – Read chapter 13 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

3/1 – Read chapter 14 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

Spring Break

3/15 Read chapter 15 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

3/22 Read chapter 16 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

3/29 Read chapter 17 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

4/5 Read chapter 18 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

4/12 Read chapter 19 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

4/19 Read chapter 20 (Shaw) & answer questions; Do deep dive assignment.

4/26 Take home final provided, course review and summary

5/3 Turn in take home final, course review and summary

Assignments:

Deep dive assignments will have students select an individual the week before, from the era the Shaw course textbook will be in, in the week to come. Ready to provide a 2-4 minute verbal summary of an individual before the class (notes welcome). In addition, students will also be expected to complete the readings, assignments, and/or questions before class. ***Both course exams will be take-home.***