



15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: RP100D2/ND2 Developing a Biblical Worldview*
Credit: 1 Semester Hour
Semester: Spring 2025 (Session 1)
Time: 2:30–3:50 P.M., Monday, January 13–March 7, 2025
Location: Calvary University, EEd 118 and online classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M.
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I. DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to equip the student “to live according to a biblical worldview.” The course starts with the theological foundations of a biblical worldview and applies the foundations to several aspects of life and society.

** This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

II. OBJECTIVES

The basic goal of this course is not knowledge, but knowhow. “Knowledge is not knowhow until you understand the underlying principles at work and can fit them together into a structure larger than the sum of its parts. Knowhow is learning that enables you to *go do*.”¹ When you have knowhow, you are ready to explore the implications of the ideas for yourself. While you will never fully achieve knowhow, you can make progress toward it by growth in each of the following areas:

- A. Identifying clear and precise truths that constitute the biblical worldview (PLO’s: 1, 2, 3; Requirements: Reading Journals, Online Discussions, Final Essay).
- B. Analyzing specific aspects of life and society using a biblical worldview (PLO’s: 1, 2, 3, 4; Requirements: Reading Journals, Online Discussions, Final Essay).

III. TEXTBOOKS

¹ Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press, 2014), 158. (The emphasis comes from the authors themselves.)

Our Mission: "... to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the biblical Worldview."

A. **Holy Bible.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask me if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. **Other Textbooks.**

Little, Paul E., *Know Why You Believe*. Downers Grove, Intervarsity Press, 2008 [ISBN: 978-8308-3422-8 — \$16:00].

Nicholi, Jr., Dr. Armand M., *The Question of God*. New York, Free Press, 2002 [ISBN: 978-0743247856 — \$15.99].

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments you complete for this course will be used to calculate your final grade, but their primary purpose is to help you develop knowhow—a skill that is essential to your spiritual development. With it, you will be able to extract truth from God’s word and infuse it into your life; without it, you never will. Of course, knowhow doesn’t just happen; you must cultivate it. So take out your spade, and let’s get started.

A. Types of Assignments

1. **Reading Journals (402 points).** Knowhow cannot develop without facts. Therefore, one of your primary responsibilities is to gain familiarity with the basic principles of the biblical worldview by reading Paul Little’s book *Know Why You Believe*. You will read the assigned chapters each week (as shown in the Proposed Course Schedule) and write a one or two-page journal showing your thoughts about the selection. Your journal should note how the material has changed your understanding of the issue, list any questions it has raised, and summarize any insights it has prompted. You will post your journal in Canvas. I will grade each of these journals according to the following scale:

0 points Incomplete or Late Reading. If you do not complete all of the assigned reading on time, you receive no credit for it at all.

33 points Reading without a Journal. If you complete the reading on time, but do not submit a journal, you receive only half-credit.

49 points Nonreflective Reading. If your journal merely reports or describes the content of a reading, but does not question or interact with it, your journal will receive a C grade (49 points).

56 points Reflective Reading. If, however, your journal shows evidence that you are attempting to learn the reading, it will receive a B grade (56 points). In this case, your journal goes beyond the mere reporting of information and shows your attempt to analyze and understand the ideas developed in the passage read.

67 points Critically Reflective Reading. In critically reflective reading, you go even further; you attempt to integrate the contribution of the assigned material into your own understanding and belief system. In your journal, you evaluate your own ideas,

assumptions, or values in light of the reading. If you submit such a journal, it will receive an A grade (67 points).

Journals submitted after class time on the due date will not be accepted apart from the professor's special permission.

2. **Online Discussion (300 points).** Knowhow benefits from interaction with others; therefore, each week, you will participate in online discussion in Canvas. When you post your journal, you will read the journal of at least one other student and comment on it. In addition, one or more discussion questions will be posted in Canvas. You will respond to these questions as well as interact with the response of other students in the course.
3. **Final Essay (298 points).** Knowhow only develops when you engage your mind. To demonstrate that you have done that, on the last day of the course, you will post a 5-page essay in Canvas, an essay that gives your assessment of Armand Nicholi's *The Question of God*. In it, you will briefly summarize the content of the book, identify what you believe to be its greatest strengths and weaknesses, and state its impact on your worldview. No paper will be accepted after 11:59 p.m. on that day.

B. Specific Assignments

Week 1. No assignments due.

Week 2. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 1–2. 67 points
Online discussion. 50 points

Week 3. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 3–4. 67 points
Online discussion 50 points

Week 4. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 5–6. 67 points
Online discussion 50 points

Week 5. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 7–8. 67 points
Online discussion 50 points

Week 6. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 9–10. 67 points
Online discussion 50 points

Week 7. Journal on *Know Why You Believe*, chapters 11–12. 67 points
Online discussion 50 points

Week 8. Final Essay 298 points

V. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. *Lecture.* As instructor, I will avoid the use of lecture except when introducing or clarifying historical or philosophical facts and background. As much as possible, I will involve you actively in the learning process. Still, the primary purpose of the class sessions is the dissemination of data, and the most efficient way to do that is lecture.
2. *Discussion.* As the basic teaching method, discussion is intended to help you wrestle with profound or difficult issues and to help the instructor analyze the needs of the class. But these ends can be attained only if you come to class both spiritually and intellectually prepared.

B. Grading

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Journals | 402 points |
| 2. Online Discussions | 300 points |
| 3. Final Essay | 298 points |
| Total | 1000 points |

C. Calculating the Final Grade

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------------|----|
| 930–1000 points | A | 730–769 points | C |
| 900–929 points | A- | 700–729 points | C- |
| 870–899 points | B+ | 670–699 points | D+ |
| 800–829 points | B- | 630–669 points | D |
| 770–799 points | C+ | 0–559 points | F |

D. Academic Issues and Support

1. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
2. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
3. **Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
4. **Attendance.** See attendance policy in the university catalog.
5. **Disabilities.** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.