



**Christian Thought I Syllabus**  
**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class**  
**2022-2023**

Catalog Description:

Christian Thought serves as the entry point into the High School Bible Curriculum. It builds on past learning and begins the process of thinking deeply and carefully about Christianity. This is done through the avenue of worldview analysis. The Christian faith is a philosophical tapestry of interdependent ideas, principles, and metaphysical claims that are derived from the Hebrew-Christian Scriptures as well as the creeds, theologies, communities, ethical norms and institutions that have flourished under the authority of these writings. These beliefs are not mere utterances of private religious devotion but are propositions whose proponents claim accurately instruct us on the nature of the universe, human persons, our relationship with God, human communities and the moral life. Christian Thought analyzes each aspect of the Biblical/Christian worldview. This class lays the foundation for further study in Christian Thought and Apologetics courses.

Short Description:

This course analyzes the foundations of the Biblical/Christian worldview.

Goals:

1. Students will learn basic tools of biblical thinking and the biblical Christian worldview.
2. Students will explore the basic elements of the Biblical/Christian worldview. These will include:
  - a. The nature of God
  - b. The origin of man and the universe
  - c. The nature of man
  - d. The cause of the human condition
  - e. The role of learning
  - f. The nature of moral thought
  - g. The nature of man's various relationships
3. Students will explore the story of reality.
4. Students will explore the basic structure and flow of ideas of the Bible.
5. Students will explore discipleship, loving God with your mind, and the way a worldview is constructed.
6. Students will regularly engage in a Socratic style of instruction. This will assist in the development of a carefully thought through Christian faith and the ability to articulate that faith.
7. Students will regularly write reflective and argumentative essays dealing with the ideas explored within this course. These essays will serve as a tool to help students think through and clearly, logically, and persuasively express their thinking.
8. Students will be provided the opportunity to develop a confidence in their ability to be thinkers, while still maintaining a humility and hunger to continually search out and recognize God's truths.

Course Outline:

1. First Quarter --- Does God Exist?
  - a. Faith and Reason
  - b. Big Bang Cosmology
  - c. DNA by Design
  - d. The Return of the God Hypothesis
  - e. The moral necessity of Theism
  - f. What is truth?
    - 1.) Correspondence view of truth
    - 2.) How does thinking work?
    - 3.) Relationship of thinking to truth
    - 4.) Relationship truth to design
  - g. The importance of design thought
    - 1.) Using God's design to communicate faith

- 2.) Why we believe in creation
- 3.) What is free will (volition)?
- 4.) Design, free will, morality
- 5.) What is sin? What effect does sin have on the design of a soul?
- 6.) How can your soul be put back together in a manner that allows it to fulfill its design?
- 7.) The concept of virtue
- h. What is a worldview?
  - 1.) How does a soul work?
  - 2.) The nature of thinking and learning
  - 3.) The nature of ideas
  - 4.) How do ideas form a worldview?
  - 5.) Answering the big questions of life
- i. Relationship of truth, a soul, and a worldview
- j. Is the Bible Reliable?---Argument from Archeology
  - 1.) In the Footsteps of Abraham
  - 2.) The Exodus: From Egypt to Canaan
  - 3.) The Israelites Conquer the Promised Land
  - 4.) Israel's Rise to Prominence through David and Solomon
  - 5.) The Assyrian Invasion
  - 6.) The Babylonian Conquest of Judah
  - 7.) Investigating the Historical Authenticity of the New Testament
  - 8.) The Reliability of Luke and Acts
  - 9.) How Archaeology Backs Up the New Testament
  - 10.) The Trial of Jesus
2. Second Quarter---Is the Bible Reliable? Who is Jesus? The Story of Reality
  - a. Who is Jesus?
    - 1.) The Question
    - 2.) The Promise
    - 3.) The Prophecy
    - 4.) His Life
    - 5.) The Death
    - 6.) The Resurrection
    - 7.) The "God" claim, Part 1
    - 8.) The "God" claim, Part 2
    - 9.) Is Jesus the Only Way?
    - 10.) Handling the Questions
  - b. The Story of Reality
    - 1.) Introduction: Reality
    - 2.) Part One: God
    - 3.) Part Two: Man
    - 4.) Part Three: Jesus
    - 5.) Part Four: Cross
    - 6.) Part Five: Resurrection
3. Third Quarter--The Bible Fast Forward
  - a. Session 1: Overview—rulership and dominion: What is Biblical Stewardship?
  - b. Session 2: The fall of man to the Abrahamic contract
  - c. Session 3: Citizenship vs Salvation
  - d. Session 4: Exodus through Deuteronomy—the Mosaic contract
  - e. Session 5: Joshua to the Divided Kingdom—conquest to captivity
  - f. Session 6: The Prophets—the new covenant and the return of Judah

- g. Session 7: The Gospels—the advent of Messiah and the promise of freedom
  - h. Session 8: The Gospels—the final sacrifice and the birth of a new order
4. Fourth Quarter---Worldview Study
- a. What is Truth?
  - b. Philosophy and Ethics: Says Who?
  - c. Who is Man?
  - d. Who is God?
  - e. Science: What is True?
  - f. History: Whose Story?
  - g. Sociology: The Divine Imprint
  - h. Uno Mystica: Am I Alone?
  - i. The State: Whose Law?
  - j. The American Experiment: Stepping Stones
  - k. Labor: Created to Create
  - l. Community and Involvement: God Cares, Do I?

Assignments:

1. First Quarter 8/17/22-10/13/22
  - a. 8/17-8/19
    - 1.) What is the definition of faith?
    - 2.) What are the four basic positions of what caused the evidence of the created world?
    - 3.) What is the relationship between faith and reason?
    - 4.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---Faith and Reason
  - b. 8/22-8/26
    - 1.) What is truth?
    - 2.) What is the nature of truth?
    - 3.) What is the nature design?
    - 4.) What is the nature of reality?
    - 5.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---Big Bang Cosmology I
    - 6.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---Big Bang Cosmology II
  - c. 8/29-9/2
    - 1.) What is a soul?
    - 2.) How does thinking work?
    - 3.) How does the meaning of life relate to reality?
    - 4.) What are first principles?
    - 5.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---DNA by Design, Part I
    - 6.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---DNA by Design, Part II
    - 7.) Quiz 1.1
  - d. 9/6-9/9
    - 1.) What is the problem with being critical of everything?
    - 2.) Does materialism present an accurate view of reality?
    - 3.) What is the relationship of design to truth?
    - 4.) What are the two possibilities for the origin of life?
    - 5.) What is the difference between microevolution and macroevolution?
    - 6.) What is intelligent design?
    - 7.) How does DNA reveal the specified complexity of life?
    - 8.) How does using the first principle of uniformity help in discovering what caused the first life?
    - 9.) Why is materialism not reasonable?
    - 10.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---DNA by Design, Part III
    - 11.) Watch video “Does God Exist”---The Return of the God Hypothesis

- e. 9/12-9/16
  - 1.) What is moral law and what is its relationship to morality?
  - 2.) What is the relationship between absolute and relative morality?
  - 3.) What is the nature of right and wrong?
  - 4.) What is necessary to have rightness?
  - 5.) What is the relationship of the moral argument to the nature of the human soul?
  - 6.) Watch video "Does God Exist"---The Moral Necessity of Theism, Part I
  - 7.) Watch video "Does God Exist"---The Moral Necessity of Theism, Part II
  - 8.) Quiz 1.2
- f. 9/19-9/23
  - 1.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/In the Footsteps of Abraham
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/From Egypt to Canaan
  - 4.) Discussion
- g. 9/26-9/30
  - 1.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/The Israelites Conquer the Promised Land
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/Israel's Rise to Prominence through David and Solomon
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 1.3
- h. 10/3-10/7
  - 1.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/The Assyrian Invasion
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/The Babylonian Conquest of Judah
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 1.4
- i. 10/10-10/13
  - 1.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/Investigating the Historical Authenticity of the New Testament
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/The Reliability of Luke and Acts
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 1.5
- 2. Second Quarter 10/18/22-12/16/23
  - a. 10/18-10/21
    - 1.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---Arguments from Archeology/How Archeology Backs Up the New Testament
    - 2.) Discussion
    - 3.) Watch video "Is the Bible Reliable?"---The Trial of Jesus
    - 4.) Discussion
    - 5.) Quiz 2.1
  - b. 10/24-10/28
    - 1.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---The Question

- 2.) Discussion
- 3.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---The Promise
- 4.) Discussion
- 5.) Quiz 2.2
- c. 10/31-11/4
  - 1.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---The Prophecy
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---His Life, The Death
  - 4.) Discussion
- d. 11/7-11/10
  - 1.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---The Resurrection
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---The "God" claim, Part I
  - 4.) Quiz 2.3
- e. 11/14-11/18
  - 1.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---The "God" claim, Part II
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---Is Jesus the Only Way?
  - 4.) Discussion
- f. 11/21-11/25---Thanksgiving Vacation
- g. 11/28-12/2
  - 1.) Watch video: True U: Who is Jesus?---Handling the Questions
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video: The Story of Reality—Introduction: Reality
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 2.4
- h. 12/5-12/9
  - 1.) Watch video: The Story of Reality—God
  - 2.) Watch video: The Story of Reality—Man
  - 3.) Watch video: The Story of Reality—Jesus
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 2.5
  - 6.) Hand out 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final Exam
- i. 12/12-12/16
  - 1.) Watch video: The Story of Reality—Cross
  - 2.) Watch video: The Story of Reality—Resurrection
  - 3.) Discussion
  - 4.) Discussion on the final exam
  - 5.) 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final Exam (due 12/14)
3. Third Quarter 1/9/23-3/10/23
  - a. 1/9-1/13---Session 1: Overview, rulership and dominion
    - 1.) What is the nature of a worldview?
    - 2.) What are the historical events which form the backbone of the Old Testament?
    - 3.) What is the main theme of the Bible?
    - 4.) Read Koukl, The Bible Fast Forward, pp. 1-14
    - 5.) What is stewardship?
    - 6.) Watch the video "Effective Stewardship"---Stewardship of Our Talents
    - 7.) Watch the video "Effective Stewardship"---Stewardship of the Environment
    - 8.) Watch the video "Effective Stewardship"---Stewardship of our Fellow Man
  - b. 1/17-1/20

- 1.) Watch the video "Effective Stewardship"---Stewardship of our Institutions
  - 2.) Watch the video "Effective Stewardship"---Stewardship of our Finances
  - 3.) How does the nature of God relate to the ideas of stewardship?
  - 4.) What is the nature of authority?
  - 5.) How do the ideas of stewardship guide our thinking about the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's free will?
  - 6.) Quiz 3.1
- c. 1/23-1/27---Session 2: The fall of man to the Abrahamic contract
- 1.) What are the four barriers between man and God as a result of the fall?
  - 2.) What is the fundamental nature of spiritual warfare?
  - 3.) Why is being born again necessary?
  - 4.) What are the core elements of the Abrahamic Covenant?
  - 5.) Read Koukl, pp. 16-34
- d. 1/30-2/3---Session 3: Citizenship versus Salvation
- 1.) What does it mean that the Jews are God's chosen people?
  - 2.) What is biblical justification?
  - 3.) What does the phrase "seed of Abraham" mean?
  - 4.) Read Koukl, pp. 35-53
  - 5.) Quiz 3.2
- e. 2/6-2/10---Session 4: Exodus to Deuteronomy, The Mosaic contract
- 1.) How is the Abrahamic Covenant being demonstrated in the birth of Isaac?
  - 2.) How was slavery in Egypt a sovereign, redemptive act of God?
  - 3.) What is the nature of the Mosaic Covenant?
  - 4.) Read Koukl, pp. 54-69
- f. 2/13-2/17--- Session 5: Joshua to the divided kingdom, conquest to captivity
- 1.) What was the reason for Israel's wandering in the wilderness?
  - 2.) Discuss the cycle of blessing and cursing that occurred to Israel in Judges?
  - 3.) What was the Davidic Covenant?
  - 4.) Read Koukl, pp. 70-84
  - 5.) Quiz 3.3
- g. 2/21-2/24--- Session 6: The New Covenant and the return of Judah
- 1.) How is the interplay between the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants demonstrated in God's dealing with His people?
  - 2.) What is the nature of Daniel's "70 Weeks" prophecy?
  - 3.) What is the nature of the New Covenant?
  - 4.) Read Koukl, pp. 85-103
- h. 2/27-3/3--- Session 7: The Gospels, the advent of Messiah and the promise of freedom
- 1.) What were the expectations of the first century Jews related to the coming messiah-king?
  - 2.) Discuss Jesus' God/man nature?
  - 3.) Read Koukl, pp. 104-124
  - 4.) Quiz 3.4
- i. 3/6-3/10--- Session 8: The final sacrifice and the birth of a new order
- 1.) Why did God become a man?
  - 2.) How does the cross of Christ remove all the barriers between God and man?
  - 3.) How does Jesus fulfill the three major covenants?
  - 4.) Read Koukl, pp. 125-144
  - 5.) Quiz 3.5
- j. 3/13-3/17 Spring Break
4. Fourth Quarter 3/20/23-5/25/23

- a. 3/20-3/24
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: What is truth?
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video Truth Project: Philosophy and ethics, Says Who?
  - 4.) Discussion
- b. 3/27-3/31
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: Anthropology, Who is man?
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video Truth Project: Theology, Who is God?
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 4.1
- c. 4/3-4/6
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: Science, What is True—Part I
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video Truth Project: Science, What is True—Part II
  - 4.) Discussion
- d. 4/10-4/14
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: History, Whose Story?
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Quiz 4.2
- e. 4/17-4/21
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: Sociology, The Divine Imprint
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video Truth Project: Unio Mystica—Am I alone?
  - 4.) Discussion
- f. 4/24-4/28
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: The State: Whose Law?
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Watch video Truth Project: The American Experiment: Stepping Stones
  - 4.) Discussion
  - 5.) Quiz 4.3
- g. 5/1-5/5
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: Labor: Created to Create
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Quiz 4.4
- h. 5/8-5/12
  - 1.) Watch video Truth Project: Community and Involvement: God Cares, Do I?
  - 2.) Discussion
  - 3.) Quiz 4.5
  - 4.)
- i. 5/15-5/19
  - 1.) Discussion on the quarter/review for final exam
  - 2.) Handout final exam (due 5/24)
- j. 5/22-5/25
  - 1.) Discussion on the final exam
  - 2.) 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Final Exam due 5/24

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Extensive use of the Socratic discussion
- 2. Student presentations based on outside reading
- 3. Lecture

## 4. Audio and video materials

Methods of Evaluation:

Since classroom participation is a primary element of this class, it constitutes a significant portion of your total grade. The grade is determined by the teacher based on daily student observation. The elements included in these observations include: classroom discipline, daily preparedness, classroom discussion, involvement in discussion, thinking skills demonstrated in discussions and completion of daily reading assignments. The reading assignments are critical to this class. They constitute the “lecture” part of class. Discussion is driven and enriched by out of class reading and thought.

## 1st Quarter

Quiz 1.1	20 points	8/31
Participation 1.1	20 points	8/31
Quiz 1.2	20 points	9/14
Participation 1.2	20 points	9/14
Quiz 1.3	20 points	9/28
Participation 1.3	20 points	9/28
Quiz 1.4	20 points	10/6
Participation 1.4	20 points	10/6
Quiz 1.5	20 points	10/12
Participation 1.5	20 points	10/12
Quarter Total	200 points	

## 2nd Quarter

Quiz 2.1	20 points	10/19
Participation 2.1	20 points	10/19
Quiz 2.2	20 points	10/26
Participation 2.2	20 points	10/26
Quiz 2.3	20 points	11/9
Participation 2.3	20 points	11/9
Quiz 2.4	20 points	12/2
Participation 2.4	20 points	12/2
Quiz 2.5	20 points	12/7
Participation 2.5	20 points	12/7
Quarter Total	200 points	
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Final Exam	100 points	12/14

1<sup>st</sup> Semester

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr + 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr + 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final Exam = 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Final Grade  
 40% + 40% + 20% = Final Grade

## 3rd Quarter

Quiz 3.1	20 points	1/18
Participation 3.1	20 points	1/18
Quiz 3.2	20 points	2/1
Participation 3.2	20 points	2/1
Quiz 3.3	20 points	2/15
Participation 3.3	20 points	2/15
Quiz 3.4	20 points	3/1
Participation 3.4	20 points	3/1
Quiz 3.5	20 points	3/8
Participation 3.5	20 points	3/8
Quarter Total	200 points	

## 4th Quarter

Quiz 4.1	20 points	3/29
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Participation 4.1	20 points	3/29
Quiz 4.2	20 points	4/12
Participation 4.2	20 points	4/12
Quiz 4.3	20 points	4/26
Participation 4.3	20 points	4/26
Quiz 4.4	20 points	5/3
Participation 4.4	50 points	5/3
Quiz 4.5	20 points	5/10
Participation 4.5	20 points	5/10
Quarter Total	200 points	
2nd Sem Final Exam	100 points	5/24

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

$$3\text{rd Qtr} + 4\text{th Qtr} + 2\text{nd Semester Final Exam} = 2\text{nd Semester Final Grade}$$

$$40\% + 40\% + 20\% = \text{Final Grade}$$

The Semester Final Grade is the only grade that appears on transcripts and is included in the calculation of a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). The quarter grade represents progress toward that Final Grade.

Examples of Assignments:

1. Discussion will be drawn from related video and reading assignments.
2. Quizzes to assist in constant accountability and practice.

Textbooks Required:

Greg Koukl

The Bible: Fast Forward

Stand to Reason

2011

Behavior Policy:

1. We expect all students to express Warrior's core values of Godliness, Obedience, Leadership, and Scholarship in and out of class.
2. We expect each student to respect the person and property of fellow students.
3. Since class discussion and debate is common, the following principles should be followed:
  - a. Genuine disagreement is an achievement because it enables people to learn. We assume that a disagreement is valuable until proven otherwise.
  - b. Deepening our understanding of truth or wisdom is more important in this class than winning an argument.
  - c. Respect is important in this class. The merits of a position may be debated, but persons may not be attacked.
  - d. If a student feels attacked, they should say so respectfully, and the teacher and class will assess the situation together.
4. In accordance with I Peter 3:15, students must express themselves with gentleness and respect to those in authority and to their peers.