

Syllabus Introduction to Worldviews

HERITAGE ACADEMY
A University-Model School®

*The Mission of Heritage Academy, a University-Model® School,
is to partner with Christian parents to prepare college-worthy character witnesses for Jesus Christ.*

I. Course Purpose and Content

This course considers the foundational elements of a biblical worldview: creation, fall, and redemption. Along the way, biblical worldview is applied to gender & family, government, science, history, and arts & culture. Non-biblical worldviews are also introduced, including the ideas of secular Humanism, Marxism, and Post-Modernism. Students will utilize critical thinking skills to compare and contrast various worldviews while strengthening their understanding of a biblical worldview.

Parent Role: Guide for Dependent Study

Prerequisite: Successful completion of middle school

II. Worldview Integration

Heritage Academy is committed to teaching all subjects in such a way that students develop a biblical worldview out of which to think and act. This particular course encourages students to (1) gain a basic knowledge of various worldviews, (2) develop an appreciation for the biblical world, and (3) practice critical thinking skills by applying the biblical worldview to all areas of study and life.

III. Required Textbooks

Textbook: Biblical Worldview: Creation, Fall, Redemption [ISBN # 978-1-60682-727-7]

Student Activities Manual: Biblical Worldview: Creation, Fall, Redemption Student Activities [978-1-62856-079-4]

IV. Course Guidelines/Student Responsibilities

A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as concepts cannot be learned if a student is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment. Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and be prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence. As communicated in Heritage Academy's Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires that a secondary student has attended at least forty-two class periods during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an F being awarded and recorded on the student's transcript.

B. Absences and Late Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student's absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance. When a student is unexpectedly and unavoidably absent due to ill health, past-due assignments must be submitted within two course periods after the student's return to school. **When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the students' absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.** Late work that is submitted simply "late" will be graded and penalized with a **ten percent grade reduction for each course period that it is late**; homework will not be accepted more than three course periods (1 week) past its due date, unless previous arrangements between the teacher and the student's parent have been agreed to in light of peculiar circumstances that are occurring beyond the family's control.

C. Student Conduct and Preparation for Learning

So that a classroom environment conducive for safety, focus, and learning may be maintained, each student is expected to conduct himself/herself in keeping with the following guidelines throughout the course of the semester:

- 1) Arrive on time to each class period with the appropriate class materials available for access (e.g., organized notebook with dividers and filed materials, paper, writing tools, texts, and other tools as directed)
- 2) Arrive prepared to submit completed at-home assignments at start of each class period.
- 3) Arrive ready to listen, learn, take notes, and participate in teacher-directed classroom discussions and activities.
- 4) Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation, kindness, and respect toward the teacher and fellow classmates in keeping with Heritage Academy's Code of Conduct.
- 5) Help keep the classroom area clean and orderly.
- 6) Communicate concerns regarding schoolwork to both the Heritage Academy teacher and the parent-educator, so that these concerns can be addressed quickly.
- 7) On the whole, conduct himself or herself in a manner that is worthy of Christ and reflects the life of the Holy Spirit in him/her: ". . . that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light" (Colossians 1:12).

D. At-Home (Satellite Classroom) Investment

Home communication sheets will be given to students each week. Student can expect to invest 2.5 to 4 hours each week in completion of at-home assignments (Primarily reading, writing, and thinking exercises).

Homework is an essential component of any course. Reading the assigned text and completing the activities in the workbook will allow students to keep pace with the course.

Course assignments may include any of the following:

- **Reading** of the assigned textbook.
- **Completion** of the activities found in the assigned workbook.
- **Review** of class notes and textbook examples.
- **Memorization of terms and vocabulary – those identified by the teacher.**
- **Memorization of Scripture**
- **Dialog:** Students may be instructed to discuss and/or explore certain topics or concepts with a parent.
- **Other Assignments:** additional types of assignments may be given throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

E. Assessments

Nine unit exams will be given throughout this semester course. A comprehensive, semester exam will be given at the discretion of the instructor at the end of each semester, scheduled according to Heritage Academy's Final Exam schedule.

F. Grades

Grade Apportionment		Grading Scale	
Daily Assignments	25%	100-95.... A	79-77..... C+
Unit Exams	60%	94-90 A-	76-73..... C
Semester Exam	15%	89-87 B+	72-70..... C-
		86-83 B	69-60..... D
		82-80..... B-	59 or belowF

The semester grade that the student has earned by the end of each semester will be the semester grade that appears on the student's transcript. Semester grades are permanent and stand alone; they will not be averaged.

V. Parent Responsibilities

A. Embracing the University Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

- to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships;
- to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School[®], designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of traditional, classroom education. Courses offered at Heritage Academy occur every-other-day so that students may realize the benefits of qualified teachers and a focused learning community, yet continue to experience home as the primary, consistent base where parents remain their foremost guides for spiritual, social, academic, and character formation.

B. Parent Role: *Guide for Dependent Study*

Within the University-Model School[®], **parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to each course** in which their student is enrolled, as prescribed by the course's description. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of "**Guide for Dependent Study.**"

This role recognizes that many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that may be unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for this class to be successful, I as a teacher am depending upon you as parents to ensure that your son or daughter keeps up with the course material and to communicate with me should any difficulties or concerns arise.

C. Monitor Gradelink and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Gradelink Reports

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded on **Gradelink.com** for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

D. Parent/Teacher Fellowship

I hope you will take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship scheduled during the 7th week of each semester. This will give you and I brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student's progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students' success within the University Model[®].

VI. Contacting the Instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class; it may also be found in the school directory.