

*WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.*

**COURSE:** WSBM 531 Applying a Biblical Worldview in our Cultural Moment

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dale Bracewell

**DATE:** Fridays 7:00-9:00pm & Saturdays 8:45am-1:00pm | April 25 & 26 and May 9 & 10, 2025

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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*Applying a Biblical Worldview in our Cultural Moment* will analyze current cultural issues through the lens of Scripture. Understand how a biblical worldview addresses life's foundational questions of origin, identity, purpose, morality and destiny. Increase your confidence in discussing cultural issues, including the sanctity of life, gender ideology and postmodernism, and connect them to the grand biblical story of creation, fall, redemption and restoration.

*WSBM 531 - Applying a Biblical Worldview in our Cultural Moment is an elective course at WSBM.*

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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The course equips students to:

- Describe what a worldview is and how a biblical worldview gives defensible answers to life's foundational questions of origin, identity, purpose, morality and destiny
- Articulate how the core biblical narrative of creation, fall, redemption and restoration helps Christians to live out their faith with confidence in our cultural moment
- Apply a biblical worldview to cultural issues such as the sanctity of life, gender ideology and social justice, engaging in conversations in a curious, respectful and Scripturally grounded manner
- Identify non-biblical worldviews by analyzing current cultural narratives such as expressive individualism, critical theory, postmodernism and progressive Christianity

### **REQUIRED READING**

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The Holy Bible (ESV, NIV, NRSV, NLT).

Trueman, Carl R. *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*. Crossway, 2022.

## COURSE PROGRAM

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Date	Topic	Assignments Due
Apr 24		<i>Book Pre-Class Assignment</i>
Apr 25	<b>Session One:</b> What Is a Biblical Worldview? The Modern Self and Expressive Individualism	
Apr 26	<b>Session Two:</b> God's Grand Story – Creation Abortion and Medical Assistance in Dying	
	<b>Session Three:</b> God's Grand Story - The Fall Critical Theory and Social Justice	
Mar 2/3	<i>No Class</i>	
May 8		<i>Book Review Assignment</i>
May 9	<b>Session Four:</b> God's Grand Story – Redemption The Sexual Revolution and Gender Identity	
May 10	<b>Session Five:</b> God's Grand Story – Restoration Humanity and the Modern Family	
	<b>Session Six:</b> Biblical vs. Progressive Christianity Postmodernism and Deconstruction	
May 16		<i>Definitions Assignment</i>
May 19		<i>Formal Letter to an MLA</i>
May 24		<i>Conversation Preparation</i>
May 31		<i>Conversational Video Project</i>

## STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

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### 1. Book Assignments (20%)

#### a. Pre-Class Assignment (5%)

Read the Foreword and Chapter One of Carl Trueman's *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*. Summarize 'expressive individualism' (one paragraph) and describe how your beliefs have been shaped by the world around you (two to three paragraphs).

**Due: Upload to the class site by April 24, 2025 by 9PM**

#### b. Book Review (15%)

Write a 500 word report on Trueman's *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*. Summarize the author's thesis and main points (approx. 200 words), and include personal responses to the book (approx. 300 words). Consider: How is this book useful/not useful? What were two key

ideas or lessons learned while reading the book? Would the student recommend this book? Why/why not? How has the material in the book most affected the student?

**Due: Upload to the class site by May 8, 2025 by 9PM**

## 2. Definitions Assignment (10%)

Submit 2-sentence definitions for these eight key cultural terms discussed during the course:

- Sexual revolution
- Critical theory
- Intersectionality
- Social justice
- Dehumanization
- Postmodernism
- Deconstruction
- Progressive Christianity

**Due: Upload to the class site by May 16, 2025 by 9PM**

## 3. Formal Letter to a Member of the Legislative Assembly (25%)

Choose a cultural issue (abortion, gender identity, etc.) discussed in the course. Write a formal letter to your local MLA outlining your concerns and convictions regarding the issue. Include a potential course of action the government could take consistent with a biblical worldview. Prior to sending the letter, share your draft letter with at least four people to solicit their feedback. Document what improvements were made to your letter. Maximum length of your letter: 500 words

Maximum length for summary of revisions based on feedback; 200 words

**Due: Upload to the class site by May 19, 2025 by 9PM**

## 4. Conversation Preparation (25%)

Choose a cultural issue discussed in the course, but different from that addressed in your MLA letter Assignment #3. Prepare for a conversation about this topic. Classroom discussion, illustrative videos and role plays during the course will help prepare students for this assignment. In point form, include in your conversation preparation:

- a. Possibilities for entering into a conversation about a sensitive cultural topic
- b. Key Questions to facilitate the conversation and better understand the other person's worldview perspective
- c. Expected non-biblical perspectives that might be raised and how you could handle these
- d. Options for sharing more information about the topic from a biblical worldview or how to continue the conversation at a later time
- e. The text and references of relevant Scripture passages with some explanation of their relevance to the cultural topic
- f. Three key talking points you will want to keep remembering throughout your conversation to help you keep sharing in a kind and winsome manner

**Due: Upload to the class site by May 24, 2025 by 9PM**

## 5. Conversational Video Project (20%)

Submit a 5-7 minute video of your role-playing a conversation with a friend, family member or work colleague about one of the issues discussed during the course. During the simulated conversation, demonstrate kindness and respect in hearing the other person's worldview perspective and curiosity through insightful questions. Strive to demonstrate authentic care, attentive listening, and courage to winsomely share Christian truth related to the cultural topic.

**Due: Upload to the class site by May 31, 2025 by 9PM**

## **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READING**

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Childers, Alisa. *Another Gospel?: A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2020;

Childers, A., Barnett, T., & Trueman, C. R. *The Deconstruction of Christianity: What it is, Why it's Destructive, and How to Respond*. Tyndale Elevate, 2023.

Faust, Katy, and Stacy Manning. *Them Before Us: Why We Need a Global Children's Rights Movement*. Post Hill Press, 2021.

Moore, T. M. *Can Worldview Ever Again Matter?*. Christian Scholar's Review, 53:1, 95-103, 2023.

Myers, Jim, and Noebel, D. A. *Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews*. David C Cook, 2015.

Phillips, W.G., Brown, W.E., and Stonestreet, John. *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*. Sheffield Publishing Company, 2008.

Steiger, Andy. *Reclaimed: How Jesus Restores Our Humanity in a Dehumanized World*. Zondervan, 2020

Stonestreet, John, and Kunkle, B. *A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World*. David C Cook, 2017.

Williams, Thaddeus. J. *Confronting Injustice Without Compromising Truth: 12 Questions Christians Should Ask About Social Justice*. Zondervan Academic, 2020.

Yuan, Christopher. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story*. Multnomah, 2018.

## **EXTENDING YOUR LEARNING**

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What Would You Say Videos: <https://whatwouldyousay.org/videos>

The Identity Project, a new free resource focused on restoring relationships and transforming culture by aligning identity with God's design: <https://identityproject.tv>

Breakpoint Podcasts, a 5-minute daily dose of applying a Christian worldview to culture, events, politics, current issues, and more: <https://www.breakpoint.org/breakpoint-podcasts/>

The World and Everything in It Podcasts, 25-minute of weekday news & facts grounded in Biblical truth: <https://wng.org/podcasts/the-world-and-everything-in-it>

Summit Ministries, a variety of free resources including articles, videos and podcasts: <https://www.summit.org/resources/>

## **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR**

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Dale, a previous elder at Willingdon, completed the Colson Center's Fellows Program, which inspired the creation of this course. An engineer with municipal government experience, he now leads his own company, supporting public agencies for the common good. With children in secondary and post-secondary education, Dale is passionate about helping Christians analyze cultural issues from a biblical perspective and engaging our culture to promote our collective human flourishing.