



Unit Outline

CS300

Unit Name	Christianity as a Worldview		
Unit weighting	Unit credit points: 3		
Pre-requisite or co-requisite	CS200		
Delivery mode	Face to face on site	Full-time or part-time	
Location	<i>Sheridan</i> 18/7 Aberdeen St, Piccadilly Square West, Perth WA 6000		
Student Workload	<i>Timetabled: 36 hours (3 hours per week over 12 teaching weeks)</i> <i>Personal Study: 132 hours (9 hours per week over 12 teaching weeks + 12 hours per week over the two non-teaching weeks)</i> <i>Total workload: 168 hours (12 hours per week over 14 weeks)</i> <i>Academic writing support is available if needed</i>		
Prescribed Textbook(s)	Sire, J. W. (2020). <i>The universe next door: A basic worldview catalog</i> . (6 th ed.). InterVarsity Press. (pp. 1–34, 55–83, 134–155, 234–267).		
Other resource requirements	Access to the Learning Management System Canvas canvas.sheridan.edu.au		
Work-integrated learning activity	Not applicable		
Timetabled day and time	Wednesday 1:00 to 3:55 pm	Room	Room 6 (Pearl)
Unit Coordinator	Dr David Graieg	Phone:	6222-4222
Email	dgraieg@sheridan.edu.au		

Unit Description

Welcome to Christianity as a Worldview. This unit introduces you to worldview analysis, which is a philosophical framework for evaluating Christianity and other meta-narratives. A worldview is essentially a comprehensive 'picture' of the world based on certain fundamental assumptions about the nature of reality.

Worldview analysis argues that what we perceive in everyday life is always filtered through some worldview. Yet we often remain unaware of the assumptions that define our worldview. This unit will encourage critical interaction between the Christian worldview and your own worldview as you learn to examine the Christian tradition from the standpoint of worldview analysis and to identify and scrutinise the assumptions of your own worldview.

We will describe the worldview concept and its limitations, asking whether and in what sense Christianity can be usefully described as a worldview. To help you better understand what a worldview is, some influential alternatives to the Christian worldview will also be discussed. Lastly, attention will be given to the relationship between the Christian worldview and selected academic disciplines.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- A. Describe the nature of a worldview.
- B. Identify major criticisms of worldview analysis.
- C. Define the fundamental elements of the Christian worldview.
- D. Compare the leading features of the Christian worldview with those of other influential worldviews.
- E. Explain how the Christian worldview applies to academic disciplines other than theology.
- F. Explore the implications of your own worldview for their future professional lives.

Sheridan Graduate Attributes

Sheridan graduates will be ...

1. Lovers of truth
2. Seekers of wisdom
3. Innovative thinkers
4. Effective communicators
5. Independent learners
6. Servant leaders

Assessment Schedule

Assessment Type	Value	Due Date	Learning Outcomes (LOs) Assessed	Graduate Attributes (GAs) Addressed
1. Weekly Reading Review	30%	Weeks 3–6	A, B, C, D, E, F	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Reflective Essay	35%	Week 11	A, C, D, F	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3. Final Exam	35%	Week 15	A, B, C, D, E	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

NB: You must submit all assessments in order to satisfy the unit requirements.

1. Weekly Reading Review

Students are required to write a review of the assigned readings from weeks 3 to 6 (i.e., four different reviews). Each review should be about 650 words. Each reading review is worth 7.5%, making a total of 30% of the final grade.

The review should 1) summarise the main point(s) of the reading and 2) evaluate whether you think the author(s) is correct in their presentation of the subject matter, outlining why you think this is the case (or you may provide your assessment of the main points of the reading).

As an option, a student may choose to review the chapter in a short (about 5–10-minute) presentation during the class. If so, the student will be graded on their oral presentation of the material instead of submitting a written paper on the subject. However, only two students may do this per chapter; consequently, you must confirm with the lecturer if you wish to do this prior to the class.

Assessment Type					
Criteria /Grade	High Distinction (80–100%)	Distinction (70–79%)	Credit (60–69%)	Pass (50–59%)	Fail (0–49%)
Identification of the Main Points Presented by the Reading [40]	Fully grasps all of the main issues in this reading	Sound grasp of most of the main issues in this reading	Grasps many of the issues in this reading	Has begun to grasp the issues in this reading	Has not grasped the issues in this reading
Analysis of the Issues [40]	Demonstrates a pronounced ability to analyse all of the issues in this reading	Demonstrates a pronounced ability to analyse most of the issues in this reading	Demonstrates ability to analyse many of the issues in this reading	Demonstrates engagement with some issues in this reading	No analysis or engagement of the issues
Composition [20]	Consistently uses correct grammar with rare misspellings	Few grammatical or spelling errors are noted in the paper	Some grammatical or spelling errors are evidenced in the paper	Many errors in spelling and grammar evidenced in the paper	Poor spelling and grammar characterise the work

2. Reflective Essay

Students will write a reflective essay of approximately 1300–1500 words discussing two things:

- 1) The extent to which a Christian worldview is relevant to their professional life (e.g., education, business, science, health care, entertainment, food service, customer service, etc.).
- 2) Also, how encountering the Christian worldview has altered your actual worldview. (Your response may include articulating reasons to reject the application of a Christian worldview to this field of work or your life).

Assessment Type					
Criteria /Grade	High Distinction (80–100%)	Distinction (70–79%)	Credit (60–69%)	Pass (50–59%)	Fail (0–49%)
Accurate representation of the Christian worldview [10]	Fully grasps all the details of the Christian worldview	Sound grasp of most of the main issues of the Christian worldview	Grasps many of the issues of the Christian worldview	Has begun to grasp the issues of the Christian worldview	Has not grasped the issues of the Christian worldview
Analysis of the relevance of the Christian worldview to their profession [40]	Demonstrates a pronounced ability to analyse all relevant elements of the Christian worldview for his or her field	Demonstrates a pronounced ability to analyse most of the relevant elements of the Christian worldview for his or her field	Demonstrates ability to analyse many of the elements of the Christian worldview for his or her field	Demonstrates engagement with some issues of the Christian worldview for his or her field	No analysis or engagement of the Christian worldview for his or her field
How encountering the Christian Worldview has altered their worldview [30]	Demonstrates a pronounced ability to analyse how their worldview has altered	Demonstrates a pronounced ability to analyse most of how their worldview has altered	Demonstrates ability to analyse many of the elements of how their worldview has altered	Demonstrates engagement with some issues of how their worldview has altered	No analysis or engagement of how their worldview has altered
Composition [20]	Consistently uses correct grammar with rare misspellings	Few grammatical or spelling errors are noted in the paper	Some grammatical or spelling errors are evidenced in the paper	Many errors in spelling and grammar evidenced in the paper	Poor spelling and grammar characterise the work

3. Final Exam

Students will sit a 2-hour final examination consisting of six short answer questions.

Learning Resources

Prescribed Textbook(s)

Sire, J. W. (2020). *The universe next door: A basic worldview catalog*. (6th ed.). InterVarsity Press. (pp. 1–34, 55–83, 134–155, 234–267).

Recommended Supplementary Reading

Anderson, T. J., Clark, W. M., & Naugle, D. K. (2017). *An introduction to Christian worldview: Pursuing God's perspective in a pluralistic world*. InterVarsity Press.

Baggini, J. (2003). *Atheism: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.

Bartholomew, C. G., & Goheen, M. W. (2014). *The drama of scripture: Finding our place in the Biblical story*, (2nd ed.). SPCK Publishing.

Beckwith, F., & Koukl, G. (1998). *Relativism: Feet firmly planted in mid-air*. Baker Books.

Beckwith, F. J., Craig, W. L., & Moreland, J. P. (Eds.). (2004). *To everyone an answer: A case for the Christian worldview*. IVP Academic.

Bediako, K. (1995). *Christianity in Africa: The renewal of a non-western religion*. Orbis Books.

Bertrand, J. M. (2007). *Rethinking Worldview: Learning to think, live, and speak in this world*. Crossway Books.

Bonzo, J. M., & Stevens, M. (Eds.). (2009). *After world view*. Dordt College Press.

Burnett, D. (2007). *The Spirit of Hinduism: A Christian perspective on Hindu life and thought*. Monarch Books.

Chalk, J. (2013). *Making disciples in Africa: Engaging syncretism in the African church through philosophical analysis of worldviews*. Langham.

Chiareli, A. A. (2002). Christian Worldview and the Social Sciences. In Dockery, D. S., & Thornbury, G. A. (Eds.), *Shaping a Christian worldview: The foundations of Christian higher education*, 240–263. B&H.

Colson, C. W. (2001). *Developing a Christian worldview of the Christian in today's culture*. Tyndale House Publishers.

Cooper, J. W. (2006). *Panentheism: The other God of the philosophers*. Baker Academic.

Copson, A. (2019). *Secularism: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.

Corduan, W. (2012). *Neighboring faiths: A Christian introduction to world religions*. (2nd ed.). IVP Academic.

Cosgrove, M. P. (2006). *Foundations of Christian thought: Faith, learning, and the Christian worldview*. Kregel Publications.

Craig, W. L., & Moreland, J. P. (2017). *Philosophical foundations for a Christian worldview*. (2nd ed.). InterVarsity Press Academic, 2017.

Dockery, D. (2002). *Shaping a Christian worldview*. Broadman & Holman.

Dockery, D. S., & Wax, T. (2019). *Christian worldview handbook*. Holman.

Eckman, J. P. (2004). *The truth about worldviews: A biblical understanding of worldview alternatives*. Crossways Books.

- Erickson, M. J. (1998). *Postmodernizing the faith*. Baker.
- Esposito, J. L. (2010). *Islam: The straight path*. (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Goheen, M., & Bartholomew, C. G. (2008). *Living at the crossroads: An introduction to worldview*. Baker Academic.
- Greenman, J. P., & Green, G. L. (Eds.). (2012). *Global theology in evangelical perspective: Exploring the contextual nature of theology and mission*. InterVarsity Press Academic.
- Grudem, W. (2009). *Business for the glory of God: The Bible's teaching on the moral goodness of business*. Crossway Books.
- Grudem, W. (2010). *Politics - according to the Bible: A comprehensive resource for understanding modern political issues in light of scripture*. Zondervan.
- Hexham, I. (2011). *Understanding world religions: An interdisciplinary approach*. Zondervan.
- Hiebert, P. G. (2008). *Transforming worldviews: An anthropological understanding of how people change*. Baker Academic.
- Hill, C. A. (2019). *A worldview approach to science and scripture*. Kregel.
- Hill, J. (2005). *What has Christianity ever done for us? How it shaped the modern world*. InterVarsity Press.
- Hoffecker, W. A. (Ed.). (2007). *Revolutions in worldview: Understanding the flow of western thought*. P&R.
- Hoffecker W. A. & Smith G. S. (Eds.). (1986 & 1988). *Building a Christian worldview*. 2 vols. P&R.
- Holmes, A. F. (1983). *Contours of a world view*. Eerdmans.
- Kennedy, D. J., and Newcombe, J. (1998). *What if the Bible had never been written?* Thomas Nelson.
- Kennedy, D. J., and Newcombe, J. (2001). *What if Jesus had never been born?* Revised edition. Thomas Nelson.
- Keown, D. (2013). *Buddhism: A very short introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Knott, K. (2016). *Hinduism: A very short introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Kraft, C. H. (2008). *Worldview for Christian witness*. William Carey Library.
- MacArthur, J. (Ed.). (2003). *Think biblically! Recovering a Christian worldview*. Crossway Books.
- Mangalwadi, V. (2011). *The book that made your world: How the Bible created the soul of western civilization*. Thomas Nelson.
- Marrow, J. (2011). *Think Christianly: Looking at the intersection of faith and culture*. Zondervan.
- Marsch, G. A. (2002). Christian Worldview and Natural Science. In Dockery, D. S., & Thornbury, G. A. (Eds.), *Shaping a Christian worldview: The foundations of Christian higher education*, 162–191. B&H.
- McDermott, G. R. (2000). *Can evangelicals learn from world religions? Jesus, revelation & religious traditions*. InterVarsity Press.
- McDermott, G. R. (2011). *World religions: An indispensable introduction*. Thomas Nelson.
- McIlroy, D. (2004). *A biblical view of law and justice*. Paternoster.
- Moucarry, C. (2001). *The Prophet & the Messiah: An Arab Christian's perspective on Islam and Christianity*. InterVarsity Press.
- Murray, A. H. (2014). *Grand central question: Answering the critical concerns of the major worldviews*. IVP Books.

- Nash, R. H. (2010). *Worldviews in conflict: Choosing Christianity in a world of ideas*. Zondervan.
- Naugle, D. K. (2002). *Worldview: The history of a concept*. Eerdmans.
- Netland, H. (2001). *Encountering religious pluralism: The challenge to Christian faith & mission*. IVP Academic, 2001.
- Newton, J. (2015). *The revelation worldview: Apocalyptic thinking in a postmodern world*. Wipf and Stock.
- Niebuhr, H. R. (2001). *Christ and culture*. HarperCollins.
- Noebel, D. A. (2006). *Understanding the times: The collision of today's competing worldviews*. (2nd ed.). Summit Press.
- Ott, C., & Netland, H. A. (Eds.). (2006). *Globalising theology: Belief and practice in an era of world Christianity*. Baker Academic.
- Palmer, M. D. (Ed.). (1998). *Elements of a Christian worldview*. Logion.
- Phillips, W. G., Brown, W. E., & Stonestreet, J. (2008). *Making sense of your world: A biblical worldview*. (2nd ed.) Sheffield Publishing Company.
- Qureshi, N. (2016). *Answering jihad: A better way forward*. Zondervan.
- Qureshi, N. (2016). *No God but one: Allah or Jesus?: A former Muslim investigates the evidence for Islam and Christianity*. Zondervan.
- Qureshi, N. (2018). *Seeking Allah, finding Jesus: A devout Muslim encounters Christianity*. (3rd ed.). Zondervan.
- Ramadan, T. (2004). *Western Muslims and the future of Islam*. Oxford University Press.
- Rhodes, R. (2001). *The challenge of the cults and new religions*. Zondervan.
- Rhodes, R. (2002). *Reasoning from the scriptures with Muslims*. Harvest House Publishers.
- Riddell, P. G., & Cottrell, P. (Eds.). (2003) *Islam in context: Past, present, and future*. Baker Academic.
- Riggs, D. L., Pattengale, J., & Ream, T. C. (Eds.). (2012). *Beyond integration: Inter/disciplinary possibilities for the future of Christian higher education*. Abilene Christian University Press.
- Rommen, E., & Netland, H. (Eds.). (1995). *Christianity and the religions: A biblical theology of world religions*. William Carey Library.
- Rosebrough, T. R. (2002). Christian Worldview and Teaching. In Dockery, D. S., & Thornbury, G. A. (Eds.), *Shaping a Christian worldview: The foundations of Christian higher education*, 280–297. B&H.
- Ruthven, M. (2012). *Islam: A very short introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Ryken, P. G. (2006). *What is the Christian worldview?* P&R Publishing.
- Sachedina, A. (2001). *The Islamic roots of democratic pluralism*. Oxford University Press.
- Safi, O. (Ed.). (2003). *Progressive Muslims: On justice, gender, and pluralism*. Oneworld Publications.
- Samples, K. (2007). *A world of difference: Putting Christian truth-claims to the worldview test*. Baker.
- Sire, J. W. (2015). *Naming the elephant: Worldview as a concept*. (2nd ed.). InterVarsity Press.
- Smart, S. (Ed.). (2016). *A spectator's guide to worldviews: Ten ways of understanding life*. (3rd ed.). Blue Bottle. (Chapter 10 - I buy, therefore I am: Consumerism).
- Smith, J. K. (2009). *Desiring the kingdom: Worship, worldview, and cultural formation*. Baker Academic.

- Solomon, N. (2014). *Judaism: A very short introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Stark, R. (1997). *The rise of Christianity: How the obscure, marginal Jesus movement became the dominant religious force in the western world in a few centuries*. HarperCollins.
- Stark, R. (2007). *The victory of reason*. Random House Publishing Group.
- Tennent, T. (2002). *Christianity at the religious roundtable*. Baker Academics.
- Vroom, H. M. (2006). *A spectrum of worldviews: An introduction to philosophy of religion in a pluralistic world*, trans., M. Greidanus & A. Greidanus. Rodopi.
- Walsh, B. J., & Middleton, J. R. (1984). *The transforming vision: Shaping a Christian world view*. InterVarsity Press Academic.
- White, J. R. (2013). *What every Christian needs to know about the Qur'an*. Bethany House Publishers.
- Wolters, A. M. (2005). *Creation regained: Biblical basics for a reformational worldview*. (2nd ed.). Eerdmans.
- Wong, K. L., & Rae, S. B. (2011). *Business for the common good: A Christian vision for the marketplace*. IVP Academic.
- Woodhead, L. (2014). *Christianity: A very short introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Yandell, K., & Netland, H. (2009). *Buddhism: A Christian exploration and appraisal*. InterVarsity Press.

Online Resources

- Brunell, L., & Burkett, E. (September 23, 2020). *Feminism*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/feminism>
- Crow, A., Chadwick, H., Marty, M. E., Sullivan, Fredericksen, L. E. Lindberg, C. H., Hick, J. McGinn, B. J. Pelikan, J. J., Hogg, W. R., Spencer, S. Stefon, M., Wainwright, G., & Benz, E. W. (November 26, 2020). *Christianity*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christianity>
- Dimock, E. C., Doniger, W., Gold, A., Smith, B. K., Basham, A.L., Narayanan, V., & van Buitenen, J. A. B. (November 30, 2020). *Hinduism*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hinduism>
- Nielsen, K. E. (March 27, 2020). *Atheism*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/atheism>
- Rahman, F., Mahdi, M. S., and Schimmel A. (August 15, 2019). *Islam*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Islam>
- Reynolds, F. E., Snellgrove, D. L., Kitagawa, J. M., Nakamura, H., Lopez, D. S., & Tucci, G. (October 30, 2020). *Buddhism*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Buddhism>
- Zalta, E. N. (Ed.). *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <https://plato.stanford.edu>

Weekly Schedule of Topics

CS300 Christianity as a Worldview

Sire, J. W. (2020). *The universe next door: A basic worldview catalog*. (6th ed.). InterVarsity Press. (pp. 1–34, 55–83, 134–155, 234–267).

WEEK	TOPICS	PRESCRIBED READINGS	ASSESSMENTS
1	Welcome, Unit Outline. Introduction to Worldview Analysis		
2	Worldview Analysis Continued and the Christian worldview	Sire, 2020, Universe Next Door, chp 1, Introduction.	
3	The Christian worldview Continued	Sire, 2020, Universe Next Door, chp 2, Christian Theism.	Weekly Reading Review 1
4	The Naturalist Worldview	Sire, 2020, Universe Next Door, chp 4, Naturalism.	Weekly Reading Review 2
5	The Islamic Worldview	Sire, 2020, Universe Next Door, chp 10, Islam.	Weekly Reading Review 3
6	The Pantheistic Worldview: Buddhism and Hinduism	Sire, 2020, Universe Next Door, chp 7, Pantheism.	Weekly Reading Review 4
7	Mid-semester Study Week		
8	Feminism and Consumerism	Smart, 2016, A Spectator's Guide to Worldviews: chapter 7 or 10.	
9	Business and Work	Wong, 2011, <i>Business for the Common Good</i> , Introduction starting on "Assumptions, Approach and Aim," pages 27–38, and chapters 1 and 2 (pages 39–91).	
10	History, Education, Science, Social Science, Management, or Financial Planning. <i>[Work on Reflective Essay in class]</i>		
11	Politics and Speech. Premodernism, Modernism, and Postmodernism.		Reflective Essay
12	Relating to Culture		
13	Review		
14	Exam Study Week		
15	Exam week		Final Examination