

Starting Points Syllabus – 2017 / 2018

Tutor: Matt Russell

Description: Starting Points is an introductory course in worldview thinking. This class is designed to enable the student to understand, define, develop, and apply a biblical framework for evaluating ideas related to basic categories of absolute truth revealed in the Bible. This course will also assist the student in forming his/her own worldview from Scripture and provide practice in discerning worldviews in literature and culture. We will study basic apologetics in order for the student to better understand the Christian worldview and articulate it against contemporary challenges to the faith. Additionally, we will examine the basic Christian ideas undergirding our country's founding documents and institutions.

Class Meetings: Tuesday / Thursday: 8:00-8:55 A.M. or 10:00-10:55 A.M. (For holiday schedule, please consult the PEP 2017-2018 Academic calendar)

Tutor Contact: My office is located at Christian Family Chapel and I will be available by appointment Monday through Friday. Syllabi and assignments will be posted on www.achristianworldview.weebly.com

Email: mattr@cfcjax.com

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Realistic Expectations for the class:

The Starting Points Manual by David Quine will be the curriculum that drives the Starting Points class. **Students will be expected to turn in work from this manual each week** and should anticipate spending at least **5 hours per week** on this course work in addition to class time. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments given in the workbook prior to class. In class, we will discuss reading and writing assignments. Assignments are to be turned in to the tutor on time and in hard copy. (You will be turning the actual pages from the workbook in for grading.) **Please use double spacing and 12pt font in all typed papers.**

Goals:

- Be able to define the meaning of “worldview” and apply it to everyday life.
- Know and articulate the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.
- Develop a Biblical worldview for their own lives
- Know and identify the seven main questions concerning worldview as the starting point for our Core curriculum.
- Learn how to identify and evaluate the worldviews expressed in literature and movies and critique them from a Biblical framework.

- Follow the methodology of three different approaches for communicating the Christian worldview to non-Christians in our day and gain practice in answering challenges to the Christian faith.
- Identify and evaluate the ideas that shaped the thinking and actions of the founders of the United States.
- Be prepared to study worldviews and the ideas of western thought in depth in subsequent core classes.

Materials:

- The Bible (ESV or NASB)
- *Starting Points* : A world view primer for Building a Christian World View. by David Quine
- Supplementary reading as specified in *Starting Points* (See PEP-Jacksonville 2015-2016 book list)
- Bible Basics for a Christian Worldview by Pastor David L. Burke. This study is provided by Mr. Russell and is posted on www.achristianworldview.weebly.com
- In the Second Quarter, students will need to watch two movies (Wizard of Oz and It's A Wonderful Life.) as part of their homework. They are currently available for rent on Amazon or you can check the public library system.

Preparation for class: Each student will be expected to bring to class each week:

- **A hunger to learn**
- **Bible** (A literal translation either ESV or NASB)
- **3 ring binder with loose leaf paper and dividers**
- ***Starting Points* workbook.** (It is required that you have the spine of the book removed and hole punch this workbook and place it in a 3 ring binder so that individual pages from the workbook can be handed in for grading without tearing up the text. One 2" binder should suffice for both the workbook and loose leaf pages/dividers)
- **Pen's for taking notes**
- **Copy of the up- to-date syllabus** and Assignments in your notebook.

Evaluation Methods:

Essays, tests, projects, course work done at home, quizzes, in-class writing assignments, oral presentations, and IN CLASS PARTICIPATION. **It is expected that every student will be prepared for and take part in in class discussions.**

Grades are determined as follows:

- 50% - Starting points notebook and other weekly assignments
- 30% - Papers and tests
- 20% - Participation in Class Discussion / Socratic Circles

Late Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Papers turned in late will be automatically marked down 20%.

Worldview Essay:

The worldview essay as described in the *Starting Points* workbook (Week 8) will be due at the beginning of the 2nd quarter. Students will write the paragraphs described in the *Starting Points* workbook from a descriptive, not a personal perspective. In other words, instead of writing about the student's personal view of God, the student will be expected to write about the Biblical view of God. Students will be learning a biblical worldview during our 1st quarter. Prior to the final draft, student will be required to turn in an outline and a rough draft.

Here are the key areas that will serve as the outline for their biblical worldview essay:

✧ Creation

- What is the nature of God?
- What is the nature of the universe?

✧ Fall

- What is the nature of man?
- What is the cause of evil and suffering?

✧ Redemption

- What is the meaning of history – Where's it all going?
- What is the solution to evil and suffering?