

## ROSS CORNERS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

RCCA  
Vestal, New York  
Syllabus

Philosophy 1031  
Life, Ethics & Worldview  
School Year 2008 - 2009

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### RCCA Mission Statement

Preparing students for every good and virtuous work; pursuing spiritual, moral and intellectual growth in unity of knowledge and faith.

#### I. Course Description

This course studies the basic principles that lead to a fulfilling life, stimulating the examination of the meaning and purpose of life. Emphasis will be given to the students acquiring of principles and practices leading to continued growth and maturity, ethical behavior and decision making. Attention will be given to the definition, development and implementation of a personal worldview, equipping the student for service and leadership in an ever changing world.

#### II. Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Demonstrate mastery of content that is influential to one's ethical decisions.
- B. Exhibit an understanding of the historical contributions to the development of ethics and worldview thinking, to include a broad understanding of the history of man, religion and culture.
- C. Display comprehension of the various principles and practices leading to a fulfilling life.
- D. Reveal knowledge of the fundamental components of a personal worldview.
- E. Understand and express the tension between contemporary culture and Christian conviction.

#### III. Assessments of Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Each student will prepare and submit a personal manifesto that demonstrates their plan for maintaining a Christian witness in a pagan culture.
- B. Each student will submit topical papers and point papers concerning moral, ethical or philosophical issues related to the required reading and complete scheduled examinations relating to course content.
- C. Each student will submit and defend their position concerning the content of their topical papers and point papers in class discussions.
- D. Submit a written essay on that section of course content and incorporate worldview principles in their topical papers.
- E. Submit a point paper and topical paper that takes up a particular instance of tension between contemporary culture and Christian conviction.

#### IV. Schedule, Course Evaluation and Project Requirements

- A. Quarter One
  1. Introduction
    - a. Critical Thinking Skills
    - b. Worldview Considerations
    - c. Introduction to Philosophy (See Appendix A)
  2. Read *Mere Christianity* (MC)
  3. MC – Point Paper (Designated Section – May Flow into Quarter Two)

- B. Quarter Two
  - 1. MC – Paper (Ethical, Moral or Philosophical issue.)
  - 2. Read *Can Man Live Without God?* (CAN)
  - 3. CAN – Point Paper (Designated section)
  - 4. CAN – Paper (Ethical, Moral or Philosophical issue.)
  - 5. Short Topics - Ethics
- C. Mid-Term Examination (Essay Format)
- D. Quarter Three
  - 1. Read *How Should We Then Live* (HOW)
  - 2. HOW Paper
  - 3. Read *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes* (ALL)
  - 4. ALL Point Paper
  - 5. ALL Paper (Cultural Issue from a moral or ethical perspective)  
(May extend into quarter 4)
- E. Quarter Four
  - 1. Read *Staying Christian in College* (STAY)
  - 2. Final Paper – Personal Manifesto
  - 3. Present Final Paper
- F. Final Examination (Essay Format)
- V. Grading Weights
  - A. Papers – 50%
  - B. Point Papers – 10%
  - C. Class Participation – 10%
  - D. Verse Quiz – 10% (One per Quarter)
  - E. Reading Log/Journal – 20% (One log per week)
- VI. Textbooks
  - A. Lewis, C. S., *Mere Christianity*
  - B. Zacharias, Ravi, *Can Man Live Without God?*
  - C. Schaeffer, Francis A. *How Should We Then Live?*
  - D. Myers, Kenneth, *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes*
  - E. Budziszewski, J. *Staying Christian in College*
- VII. Writing Resource
  - A. See [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/577/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/577/01/)
  - B. MLA Hand Book 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. See [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)
- VIII. Standards
  - A. Grading Schedule is per RCCA Student Handbook.
  - B. Paper Standards are per Appendix B
  - C. Writing Criteria is per Appendix C
- IX. Memory Verses
  - A. Philippians 1:3-11 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)
  - B. Philippians 2:1-11 (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
  - C. Philippians 2:12-16, 3:12-14 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
  - D. Philippians 4:4-9, 13, 17-19 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)
- X. Bibliography (See Appendix D)