



### **Class Information**

**Day and Time:** Tuesday: 1:30-4:00pm

**Room Number:** Room E207

### **Contact Information**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Ray Wilkins

**Instructor Email:** Rwilkins@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 972-740-6548 (cell)

**Instructor Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Course Description and Prerequisites**

An examination of thinkers and issues related to studies of the nature of reality and theories of knowledge in Western thought.

### **Course Objectives**

The student who successfully completes this course will demonstrate the ability to:

- Analyze and process the language of metaphysics and epistemology.
- Examine some of the major principles, ideas, and theories in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology.
- Link some areas of practical metaphysical and epistemological concern to contemporary life.
- Acquire an enhanced appreciation for the value of metaphysics and epistemology as related to faith and political economy.

### **Required Textbooks**

Hasker, William. *Metaphysics: Constructing a Worldview*. InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, 1983. | 978-0877843412.

Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas: Understanding the Concepts that Shaped Our World*. Crossway: Wheaton, 2018. | 978-1433563775.

Wood, Jay. *Epistemology: Becoming Intellectually Virtuous*. InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, 1998. | 978-0877845225.

Other articles/sources as assigned. The professor will electronically post this material.

### **Recommended Reading**

Moreland, James P. and William L. Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, 2017. | 978-0830851874.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Weekly summaries. Each week the student will submit a 2-3 page summary over the weeks assigned reading. The summary should include an overview of the reading and critical reflection. **20%** of final grade.
2. Each student will submit a 5-7 page essay over a topic relevant to the field of Metaphysics & Epistemology. The essay may focus on a subject or an individual whose historical contribution to Metaphysics & Epistemology is recognized within the history of philosophy (e.g. Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, etc.). **20%** of final grade.
3. There will be two exams: a mid-term and a final. The mid-term will cover the ideas and thinkers discussed in Metaphysics, and the final will cover the same for the field of Epistemology. Each exam will comprise **25% of the final grade**.
4. Class attendance and participation is expected and will comprise **10%** of the final grade.

## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

**Weekly Summaries:** Weekly summaries should have the students name and the assignment in the upper left-hand corner of header. No other title information is necessary. Assignment should be single-spaced with 1" margins throughout. 12-point New Times Roman font. Indent first line of each paragraph. A paragraph should consist of at least 3 sentences. **Proof-read** for grammar and spelling.

**Essay:** Essay's should follow the Criswell Manual of Style.

## Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour

C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

## Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An “I” may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar’s Office. The “I” must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the “I” will become an “F.”

## Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students’ institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu).

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing [writingcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Reading Assignment
1/21	Sproul: Intro-Ch.3
1/28	Hasker: Introduction to Metaphysics
2/4	Hasker: Freedom and Necessity
2/11	Hasker: Mind & Bodies
2/18	Hasker: The World
2/25	Hasker: God & The World

3/3	Sproul: Chap. 6-8
3/10	Handout   <b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
3/17	<b>Spring Break</b>
3/24	Wood: Nature of Epistemology/ <b>Essay Due</b>
3/31	Wood: Intellectual Virtues
4/7	Wood: Intellectual Virtues Continued
4/14	Wood: Foundationalism
4/21	Wood: Epistemic Justification
4/28	Wood: Reliabilism
5/5	Wood: Epistemology & Religious Beliefs
5/12	Wood: Role of Emotions.   <b>Final Exam</b>

## Selected Bibliography

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- . *Categories and Interpretation*. Translated by LeRoy Finley Smith. Edited by LeRoy Finley Smith. Fresno, CA: Academy Guild Press, 1959.
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- Lemos, Noah Marcelino. *An Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge*. Cambridge Introductions to Philosophy. 1st ed. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
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