

# 85270 Seminar in Worldview Analysis

## The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. James Parker

[jparker@sbts.edu](mailto:jparker@sbts.edu) 897-4001

### **Seminar Description:**

A study of the history and theory of Weltanschauung (worldview) and its role in shaping ideas and beliefs. The belief-shaping power of Weltanschauung will be examined as applied to various representative world views, such as theism, naturalism, pantheism, and postmodernism.

### **Seminar Objectives:**

1. To provide a research environment for Th.M. and Ph.D. students on matters related to the advanced study of Weltanschauung.
2. To deepen the participants understanding of the history and theory of the concept of Weltanschauung.
3. To gain an appreciation, understanding and knowledge as to how fundamental worldview presuppositions inform and shape belief systems.
4. To master, as evidenced by a substantial research paper, certain particular topics and issues within Weltanschauung studies today.

### **Seminar Reading List:**

*Worldview: The History of a Concept*, David K. Naugle (Eerdmans, 2002)

*Contours of A World View*, by Arthur Holmes (Eerdmans, 1983)

*The Seven Pillories of Wisdom*, by David R. Hall

*Six Modern Myths about Christianity and Western Civilization* by Phillip J. Sampson

*Plagues of the Mind: The New Epidemic of False Knowledge* by Bruce S. Thornton

*For the Glory of the God*, by Rodney Stark (Princeton University Press)

*Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law & Education*, by Phillip E. Johnson (IVP, 1995)

*Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*, by Nancy Pearcey (Crossway, 2004)

### **Seminar Participant Responsibilities:**

The students are expected to attend and fully participate in all seminar sessions. They should come to class having read and prepared to discuss the reading assignments. In preparation for this, each student should prepare a 4-5 page (single space; 12 point font) summary essay on each book, due weekly on the day that book is discussed.

### **Seminar course requirements:**

Each student will prepare and present a term paper around 4000 to 5000 words long (and no limit on footnotes). The style will follow the Southern Seminary Manual of Style (available in the Lifeway Bookstore). Copies of the paper should be available to the faculty person and each class participant one week before the class presentation date. In preparation for the paper, **the student should choose (and get approved by the professor) a research paper topic by the third meeting of the class and have a research bibliography ready to turn in to the professor by the fifth class meeting** (the bibliography should include 8-15 books and 30+ journal articles).

In the papers, the student should be careful to demonstrate how assumptions play a formative role in the topic at hand.

Each student will also be prepared to lead in class discussions over the assigned reading materials the first half of the course (this is done by preparing a series of questions and topics that need to be discussed in reference to the assigned readings).

### **Student evaluations:**

1. Research paper: 50% of course grade.
2. Summary papers and class participation in discussions: 50% of course grade.
3. Grades below B are not sufficient for crediting a seminar in the Ph.D. or Th.M. academic program.

Additional bibliography attached.