



## Core/Worldview Studies

Core is Whitworth's three-part worldview studies program. A worldview is "a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions that we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being" (Sire, 2004). A worldview serves as a lens through which we perceive and relate to reality; it is a set of core beliefs and basic understandings about the bigger and deeper questions of life.

**Program Goals:** The Whitworth University Worldview Studies Program exists to engage students in examining actively the pre-suppositional thinking that forms the basis of all human meaning-making. Its intent is to explore the origins of human thinking at this foundational level, particularly emphasizing the Western tradition of answering questions of meaning. The Worldview Studies Program seeks to meet these four general core objectives:

1. Furnish students with the **basic categories of worldview thinking evident in the West** including the nature of God, the nature of humanity, how we know, the nature of reality, and how we should live individually and corporately.
2. Expose students to a variety of **answers that Westerners have given to these categories of worldview thinking across the disciplines of academic study**, since worldviews express themselves in all aspects of human culture.
3. Provide opportunities for student **contemplation and evaluation of both the categories of worldview thinking and the answers that Westerners have given to these categories in light of Scripture and the historic doctrines of the Christian Church.**
4. Equip and encourage students to **explore the parameters of their own worldviews** via discussions, student activities, directed lectures, examinations and readings.

**The Ultimate Questions:** To get at these worldview beliefs and their related issues, the Whitworth Worldview Studies Program focuses on three foundational questions:

1. What is the nature of God, the world and humanity?
2. How do we know?
3. How should we act in response to a broken world, as individuals and as a community?

Although each of these questions will be addressed in some way within all three Core courses (150, 250 and 350), each Core class will emphasize and devote special attention to one question in particular, as follows:

**Core 150:** "What is the nature of God, the world and humanity?" [This is known as "stating the claims."] This course examines the various ways in which this question has been answered, using the Christian tradition as a main point of reference, emphasizing questions of a *religious* and *theological* nature.

**Core 250:** "How do we know?" [This is known as "justifying the claims."] This course explores various ways of "knowing" (intuition, empirical senses, innate reason and authority), and

examines the rationalist worldview tradition that has emerged and influenced the Christian West, focusing upon questions of a *philosophical* nature.

**Core 350:** "How should we act in response to a broken world, as individuals and as a community?" [This is known as "applying the claims."] This course explores the ways in which Western worldview claims, particularly those of Christianity, are applied in the private and public spheres of life, emphasizing questions of a *practical* and *ethical* nature.

## Core Courses

### **CO 150 Western Civilization I: Christian Worldview Perspective** 4

The initial Worldview course focuses on theology and anthropology, the nature of God and humanity. Beginning with a brief comparative examination of various global worldview perspectives, the course focuses primarily upon key theological concerns of the Christian movement from its earliest beginnings to today, examining how those concerns have worked themselves out in various and diverse ways in the Church, as well as in the daily life of individuals and cultures in the Western world.

### **CO 150H Western Civ. I: Christian (Honors) Worldview Perspective** 4

The initial Worldview course focuses on theology and anthropology, the nature of God and humanity. Beginning with a brief comparative examination of various global worldview perspectives, the course focuses primarily upon key theological concerns of the Christian movement from its earliest beginnings to today, examining how those concerns have worked themselves out in various and diverse ways in the Church, as well as in the daily life of individuals and cultures in the Western world.

### **CO 250 Western Civilization II: The Rationalist Worldview** 4

The second Worldview course focuses on epistemology/hermeneutics and metaphysics, sources of knowledge (how knowledge claims are justified) and the nature of reality. The class examines the important and continuing impact of rationalism in shaping Western intellectual traditions, explores issues of faith and reason, and discusses challenges to a traditional Western canon.

### **CO 250H Western Civilization II: (Honors) The Rationalist Worldview with Films** 4

Relying on film and field trip, the second Worldview course focuses on epistemology/hermeneutics and metaphysics, sources of knowledge (how knowledge claims are justified) and the nature of reality. The class examines the important and continuing impact of rationalism in shaping Western intellectual traditions, explores issues of faith and reason, and discusses challenges to a traditional Western canon.

### **CO 300 Reason/Knowing: Nature and Human Nature** 4

This worldview course for Continuing Studies students focuses on epistemology, metaphysics and human nature questions within the complex traditions of Christian and Rationalist worldviews from the Hebrews and Greeks in ancient times through the 19th and 20th century challenges to Rationalist assumptions.

### **CO 350 Western Civilization III: Applied Ethics, Public Policy and Worldviews** 4

This is the third course in the Worldview Studies program. It explores the relationship between our worldviews and our responses to the world's problems. Its emphasis is on the applications of worldview claims, particularly those of Christianity, in the private and public spheres of life, and it addresses practical and ethical questions. The interplay between worldviews, ethics, and public policy in various disciplines will be examined in the discussion groups.

### **CO 350H Western Civ III Honors** 4

In this section, you will apply the main theme of CO 350 - how worldviews shape ethics and public policy - to the specific case of the American space program. As a part of your enrollment in this 'Honors' section, you are required to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the historical, social, and political factors that have shaped the policy-making process in the space program, as well as how worldviews of the key actors influenced that process.

## **General Education Courses**

- GE 125 First Year Seminar** 1  
Presentations, discussions, and activities that encourage the successful transition to college life and help first-year students become a part of the Whitworth community.
- GE 125H Honors First Year Seminar** 1  
Presentations and discussions are designed to inform frosh with honors at entrance about the university's traditions, procedures and to help them become a part of the Whitworth community and the GW Honors Program. Elective for first-term frosh interested in pursuing the GW Honors Program.
- GE 130 Success Strategies for Adult Learners** 3  
Development of study and thinking patterns that will allow the student to become independent scholars and critical thinkers. Designed for non-traditional age students returning to college. Periodic offering.
- GE 148 Planning: Major/Career** 1-3  
Explores and defines personal interests, values, goals and personality in relation to choosing a major. Provides specific information on career and job opportunities to help students make career choices and other major decisions. Spring semester.
- GE 303 Latin American Prep Course** 1  
Preparation for the Latin American Study Program.
- GE 304 Maximizing Study Abroad** 2
- GE 325 Transfer Seminar** 1  
Presentations, discussions, and activities that encourage the successful transition to college life at Whitworth and help transfer students become a part of the Whitworth community.
- GE 330 Community Leadership Training** 1  
A survey of topics related to effective community leadership, such as characteristics of community, conflict management, valuing diversity. Attention is given to development of applicable skills. Fall and spring semesters.
- GE 335 Transitions to Adult Learning** 3  
An introduction to the expectations and methodology of the accelerated learning format and the programs in the School of Continuing Studies. Through readings, discussion, and writing assignments, the course examines critical thinking and communication skills. Topics include self-directed collaborative learning, academic research, and history/culture of Whitworth. This course must be taken within the first semester of attendance at Whitworth University.

# Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.