

















Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews

Our world revolves around ideas. Politicians, military leaders, CEOs, media moguls, and academics may think they are in charge of world affairs, but what they think—the ideas in their heads—actually control them. Ideas are the guiding force behind every twist and turn in public opinion. They determine what we accept or reject in the arts, media, business, science, education, politics, family, church, and the list goes on endlessly. We cannot understand what's going on in the world until we look below the surface at the ideas that influence our beliefs and behaviors.

This curriculum is about the ideas that construct our worldviews. Everyone has a worldview, which helps them interpret what is happening around them. Christianity has an explanation for reality, but so does Islam, Secularism, Marxism, New Spirituality, and Postmodernism. Each of these worldviews is founded upon a pattern of interconnected ideas. These worldviews dictate (consciously or unconsciously) how we interpret and respond to issues like stem-cell research, abortion, transgenderism, human rights, poverty, technology, etc.

Understanding the Times is an introduction to six dominant worldviews of our age with specific focus given to 10 key academic disciplines. By the end of the course, students will recognize the patterns of ideas and see how Christian thought stand out among all the competing voices. In addition to the six worldviews and ten disciplines, students will be introduced to over 60 major concepts and ideas as they work through the curriculum.

Make no mistake, these worldviews are at war. This curriculum will open your eyes to the factions competing for your heart and mind. The stakes couldn't be higher. Because all humans are sinners (Romans 6:23), the worldviews developed apart from God will be sinful and flawed. But with the Christian worldview, we get God's perspective on the challenges we face and how best to deal with them.

	 SECULARISM	 MARXISM	 POSTMODERNISM	 NEW SPIRITUALITY	 ISLAM	 CHRISTIANITY
THEOLOGY	 Atheism	Atheism	Theological Suspicion	Pantheism	Monotheism	Trinitarian Monotheism
PHILOSOPHY	 Materialism & Naturalism	Dialectical Materialism	Anti-Realism	Spiritual Monism	Dualism	Dualism
ETHICS	 Moral Relativism or Utilitarianism	Proletariat Morality	Cultural Relativism	Karma	Divine Command Theory	Agape
BIOLOGY	 Neo-Darwinism	Punctuated Equilibrium	Anti-Essentialism	Spiritual Evolution	Special Creation	Special Creation
PSYCHOLOGY	 Mind/Body Monism (Self-Actualization)	Mind/Body Monism (Classical Conditioning)	Decentered Self	Mind/Body Monism (Fourth Force)	Mind/Body Dualism (Unfallen)	Mind/Body Dualism (Fallen)
SOCIOLOGY	 Personal Autonomy	Proletariat Society	Social Constructionism	Collective Consciousness	Ummah	Sphere Sovereignty
LAW	 Legal Positivism	Proletariat Law	Critical Legal Studies	Self-Law	Shariah Law	Natural Law
POLITICS	 Progressivism	Statism	Political Pessimism or Liberalism	Autarchy	Islamic Theocracy	Subsidiarity
ECONOMICS	 Economic Interventionism	Socialism	Economic Interventionism	Universal Enlightened Production	Shariah Economics	Biblical Stewardship
HISTORY	 Social Progress	Historical Materialism	Historical Revisionism	Evolutionary Godhood	Pan-Islam	Redemptive Narrative

Details

Age	High School, 14 and up
Class Day and Time	Wednesdays, 2:15pm – 3:15pm
Cost	\$324, paid in six \$54 payments. \$0 supply fee per year, paid in one \$0 payment.
Prerequisites	None
Type of Class	Social Studies, Elective
Textbook	Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews SKU: UTT503-600 ISBN 13: 9781434709585 Cost: \$29.50
Student Manual	Understanding the Times Student Manual (5th) SKU: UTT506-600 ISBN 13: 9780936163215 Cost: \$22.50

General Outline of Topics

Week	Topic	Week	Topic
1	Asking Good Questions Constructive Conversations	17	Philosophy
2	The Battle of Ideas	18	<i>TBD</i>
3	Christianity	19	Ethics
4		20	Biology
5	Islam	21	<i>TBD</i>
6		22	Psychology
7	Secularism	23	Sociology
8		24	<i>TBD</i>
9	Marxism	25	Law
10		26	Politics
11	New Spirituality	27	<i>TBD</i>
12		28	Economics
13	Postmodernism	29	History
14		30	<i>TBD</i>
15	<i>TBD</i>	31	Conclusion
16	Theology	32	<i>TBD</i>

About the Instructor: Jason Fouts

As I grow older, my desire is to see people (including myself) think clearly about the world. This desire has brought me to a place of wanting to help others clearly articulate why Jesus, Jesus' teaching, and God's Word are relevant in today's culture and hold truth about reality. When we live and move and have our being in Him, we can be truly human. Why boundaries are good and bring freedom. Why femaleness and maleness are good and were created for a purpose. I want to equip my kids, grandkids, and hopefully others to think well in this life, so that they can live joyfully and peacefully with themselves and others. My hope is that through *Understanding the Times* is that young people will learn to think Biblically about the world, so that they become firmly rooted in Christ, greatly impacting the world.

In 2023 I participated in the Colson Fellows Program which is a 10-month program which explores Biblical worldview and teaches Christians how to live out their faith and beliefs wherever they find themselves within this cultural moment. I was never introduced to these topics attending church faithfully for most of my life and how to think about them Biblically. The program taught me how to communicate a Biblical worldview more clearly, along with providing tools and resources to share with others.

My wife Patty and I have lived in the Seattle area for 27 years. We have five children attending Connections, four grown young adults, and three grandchildren. I am currently working as a Human Factors Researcher working on medical devices. My educational experience includes obtaining a master's degree in psychology and teaching Introductory Psychology at Bellevue Community College (now Bellevue College).