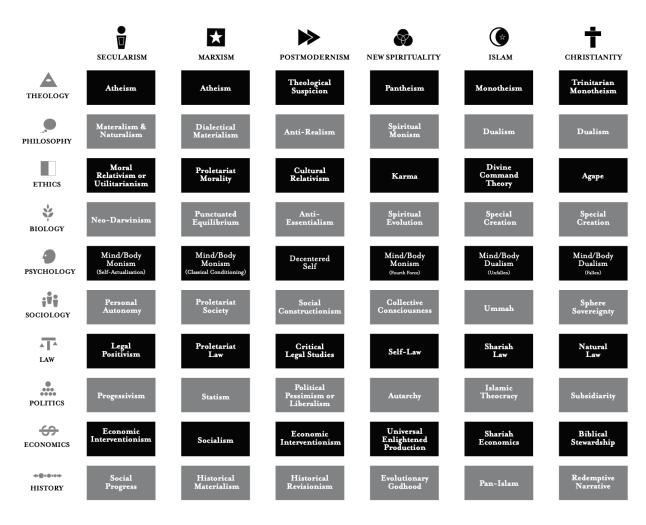
## Understanding the Times: A Survey of Competing Worldviews

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.



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

## 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).