**Lutheran High School – Kansas City Course Syllabus**

**Contemporary Christian Issues**

Instructor: Lee Rudzinski

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Conference time: MWF 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM or as scheduled upon request

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will consider ways in which today’s Christian might deal from a Biblical perspective with contemporary societal issues that challenge the Christian faith. Students will apply I Peter 3:15, “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” This course will use historical and scientific evidence and philosophical arguments along with Biblical knowledge as it considers and exposes the flaws of other worldviews and claims of our time including, but not limited to, secular humanism, naturalism, moral relativism, postmodernism, pantheism, new tolerance, micro- and macro-evolution, the Big Bang Theory, contemporary entertainment, marriage and family, abortion and current human sexuality issues.

**II. COURSE OVERVIEW**

Students will consider and discuss various issues that are commonly faced by teens and young adults in today society. They will then study Scripture to discover how it applies to these issues and draw conclusions about the Christian biblical response to them.

**III. COURSE GOALS**

1. Overview of basic Christian Doctrine and practices and applications of these by the Lutheran Church

2. Guidelines for making God Pleasing decisions

3. Christianity and government (Romans 13)

4. Christianity and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

5. Personal and corporate worship

6. Defending the faith

7. Contemporary worldviews – components and evaluation

8. Inspiration and reliability of Scripture

9. The person of Jesus in history

10. Abortion and other life issues from a Biblical standpoint

11. Gender and sexuality from a Biblical standpoint

12. Marriage and the family

` 13. Music and entertainment

**IV. STUDENT OBJECTIVES** At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of God’s ongoing love for His chosen people.

2. Discuss the Christian Church as a Spiritual family demonstrating the types of relationships the Christian has with God and the Church has with Christ.

3. Explain the three “solas” as they pertain to Lutheran theology.

4. Identify and discuss the three ecumenical creeds of the Christian Church.

5. Compare and contrast the Roman, Reformed, and Lutheran views of the Lord’s Supper.

6. Identify several Lutheran auxiliary organizations through which community work is accomplished by the church.

7. Demonstrate a desire to seek God‘s guidance in the decisions he / she makes.

8. Demonstrate understanding of, and growth in spiritual maturity

9. Examine different way of personal worship and why they are important.

10. Discuss the various parts of corporate worship, explaining the purpose and importance of each part.

11. Discuss the Christian response to government authority as presented in Romans 13.

12 Identify and discuss several U.S. Supreme Court cases dealing with the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

13. Identify several worldviews and demonstrate how Christian deal in love with those of other worldviews.

14. Demonstrate knowledge of several historical, scientific and philosophical arguments that support the claims of Scripture.

15. Demonstrate with logical argumentation why abortion should be unthinkable.

16. Discuss current sexuality issues from a Biblical standpoint.

17. Discuss God’s purposes and design for marriage as Scripture describes it.

18. Discuss, from a Christian Biblical perspective, the value of various types of contemporary entertainment.

**V. REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Bible with concordance (NIV or ESV Study Bible preferred)

Alles, Brad. *Life’s Big Questions; God’s Big Answers*. Concordia Publishing

House. 2010.

**VI. METHODOLOGY**

A variety of methods of instruction are used including:

1. lecture and other teacher presentation

2. class discussion of theological events and issues

3. individual student and group oral presentations

4. small group discussion

5. video and auditory presentation

**VII. EVALUATION**

1. periodic quizzes face value

2. topical essays 10 / 20 points

3. notebook (quarterly) 100 points

4. unit tests 100 points

Quarter grades will be determined by a percentage of total pints for that quarter.

100% - 90% A

89% - 80% B

79% - 70% C

69% - 57% D

Below 57% F

SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION:

1st quarter 40%

2nd quarter 40%

Final Exam 20%

***Cheating Policy:*** If a student is found to be cheating on an assignment or test, he or she may be given a 0% on the paper or may be required to redo the assignment or test.

**VIII. EXTRA CREDIT**

Students may receive extra credit in special circumstances only by arrangement with and by special permission of the instructor.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE INSTRUCTOR

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I have read the syllabus for this course and am aware of the way class will be conducted.

Student signature Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_