

**Senior Seminar**  
CHR 498  
Directed Study Edition

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This course *Senior Seminar* functions as an exit seminar for majors in Christian Studies. It specifically focuses on competencies in the following areas: reflecting on one's mission and values, interpretation of the culture, understanding the church's relationship to contemporary culture, academic research, and the integration of the Christian worldview with the academic disciplines. The student will present a research paper of 30-35 pages in the discipline of his or her choice. The student will make a presentation of the paper at the end of the term.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

*After this course, the student will be able to:*

- A. Speak with ability to the cultural issues facing Christianity today.
- B. Articulate the importance of ideas in shaping intellectual movements and cultures.
- C. Show increasing competency and skill in both research and writing.
- D. Engage in intelligent, academic dialogue with others.
- E. Think about one's vocational calling from God.

II. TEXTBOOKS FOR THE COURSE

- A. Dockery, David S. and G. A. Thornbury. *Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundation of Christian Higher Education*. Broadman & Holman, 2002.
- B. Leithart, Peter. *Against Christianity*. Canon Press, 2003.
- C. Sayers, Dorothy. *Creed or Chaos: Why Christians Must Choose Either Dogma or Disaster (Or, Why It Really Does Matter What You Believe)*. Sophia Institute Press; Reissue edition, 1999.
- D. Weaver, Richard. *Ideas Have Consequences*. University Of Chicago Press; Reprint edition. 1984.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Book Reports:** Students will read and report on four books. These reports will be counted as **40% of the final grade**. These reports are to be 5 pages, typed, and double-spaced. These reviews should consist mainly of critique and evaluation, and should be slim on traditional “summary/digest.” (As a rule, limit any digest or summary to 2 pages max, and be sure to include at least 3 pages of critique/evaluation).

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28: RICHARD WEAVER BOOK REVIEW DUE**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28: PETER LEITHART BOOK REVIEW DUE**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18, DOROTHY SAYERS BOOK REVIEW DUE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 2, DOCKERY/THORNBURY BOOK REVIEW DUE**

- B. **Paper Outline:** Students will submit an outline of their research project. This is to help them to think through their research project, and as a step toward an organized, and well-conceived research project. The Paper Outline will be counted **5% of the final grade**.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14: PAPER OUTLINE DUE**

- C. **Paper Précis:** All students will present a 1 page, single-spaced, précis of their paper. This précis will be counted **5% of the final grade**.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28: ONE PAGE PAPER PRECIS DUE**

- D. **Research Paper:** All students will write a piece of original research on an area of their choice. The topic of the paper will be chosen in consort with the professor. Thus, all students must clear their research topic with the professor. The Research Paper will be counted **50% of the final grade**. All research papers (including copies for each student in the class) are due at the **beginning** of class for the day, the week before the student presents (e.g. if a student presents on April 27, copies of the paper are due in class on April 20). Papers should be 30-35 pages in length and should give evidence of thorough and extensive research. This would mean at least 15 sources of varied genres (e.g. reference tools, monographs, journal articles, etc), with a generous interaction with the sources throughout the paper. A date for a paper presentation will be worked out with the professor.

**RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE MONDAY, APRIL 24**

### IV. METHOD OF EVALUATION

- A. Your grade for the term will be determined as follows:

Book Reports	40% of grade
Research Paper Outline	5% of grade
Research Paper Précis	5% of grade
Research Paper	50% of grade

B. The official grading policy at Union University as stated in the current catalogue will be employed for this course. Grading scale:

A	95-100	Excellent
B	85-94	Good
C	75-94	Satisfactory
D	65-74	Poor
F	below 65	Failing

## V. POLICY ON CHEATING

We enforce Union's policy on cheating. Any student who cheats will be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

## VI. POLICY ON LATE PAPERS

Each paper is due by the end of the day on April 24, 2006. You will be penalized ½ letter grade for each day late, including the day due.

The only exceptions to this policy include emergency and bereavement, and are handled in the same way these situations are addressed related to absence from class. Absence from campus due to official university functions does not constitute grounds for an extension on a paper without penalty. If you know you will be away from campus, make plans to turn your work in early.

## VII. CONTACT WITH DR. GUTHRIE.

Please contact me in my office or at home as you have need. My office number is 661-5264; home: 783-1413; email: [gguthrie@uu.edu](mailto:gguthrie@uu.edu).