

# BIBLICAL STUDIES 11-12 A

## Philosophy

### In light of the Gospel, how do Christians think about the world and grow in wisdom?

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Christian teachings examine the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence; the written word is revealed in the living Word (Jesus) by the Spirit.

Scripture provides tools for investigating meaning and fostering understanding of different ways of thinking.

Examining philosophical & existential questions allows people to question their assumptions and better understand their own worldview.

A limitation of western, secular worldviews is the over-reliance on logic and reasoning that does not truly inform us about how God designed the mind.

## LEARNER ATTRIBUTE GOALS



- Assess the development and impact of systems of thought, assumptions, biases, and belief structures. (Purposefully Disciplined)
- Evaluate truth claims and different philosophic perspectives by considering how worldviews, beliefs, and values of key philosophers shaped the different schools of thought. (Purposefully Disciplined)
- Recognize and respectfully engage in dialogue with others, while finding points of commonality and developing the capacity to disagree humbly in love. (Grace-Filled Integrity)
- Explain different philosophical & Christian perspectives by considering the norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs of the people who developed them. (Grace-Filled Integrity)
- Construct one's own meaningful justification for core Christian and/or faith-informed beliefs after investigating points of contention and the strengths and weaknesses of various arguments. (Engaged & Faithful)
- Use inquiry processes, scripture, and reasoning skills to respond to arguments and questions related to major issues about faith, reality, truth, and identity. (Faith-Informed Discernment)
- Assess questions about a range of philosophical ideas for everyday life, current social and political issues, and the nature of God. (Faith-Informed Discernment)
- Analyze philosophic issues and ideas using critical thinking about scripture and be slow to judgment. (Faith-Informed Discernment)
- Compare and contrast a range of diverse perspectives, ideas, experiences, and solutions, including those that are Biblically-informed, involving important community and social implications. (Faith-Informed Discernment)

## CONTENT LEARNING GOALS

- Genesis 1-11; Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Job (wisdom literature); the Gospel of John
- Methods, paradigms, and tools of reasoning and argumentation  
*Sample topics: inductive and deductive reasoning; ways of knowing and being (logic, reason, emotion, faith, revelation); rhetorical, criticism, and argumentation; logical fallacies; socratic dialogue; decision-making; faith-informed judgment*  
*Sample inquiry questions: How can we distinguish between myth and reality, fact and fiction, data and facts, and come to reasonably communicate our beliefs?*
- Metaphysical/ontological theories about the nature of reality  
*Sample topics: nature of God; theism, agnosticism, atheism, pantheism, existentialism, nihilism, deism; modernity and post-modernity*  
*Sample inquiry questions: If God exists, then why is there evil and suffering in the world? How should Christians understand evolutionary theories? What is the nature and origin of being a human? Why is there something rather than nothing?*
- Epistemological theories about knowledge and truth  
*Sample topics: Knowledge construction and technology; knowledge construction and Indigenous communities; knowledge and religious belief*

*Sample inquiry questions: Has science made God obsolete? Are there good reasons to believe in the Christian God? Did Jesus really rise from the dead?*

- Axiological theories of morality, social and political philosophy, ethics, and aesthetics

*Sample topics: Justice (distributive, restorative, retributive); rights and responsibilities; individualism and collectivism; deontology and utilitarianism; biomedical ethics; nature of values and beauty; art, aesthetics, and imagination; objectivism and subjectivism in judgments*

*Sample inquiry questions: Can you be good without God? Is there a moral law written into human existence? Why does the universe appear so finely tuned?*

## **BIBLICAL STUDIES 11-12 (A) RATIONALE**

In the Bible 11/12 Philosophy Course Stream, we will seek to analyze and investigate key questions of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, existence, and the nature of God. As a Christian learning community committed to understanding how the Bible informs our perspectives, we will develop critical, reflective, and interpretive practices to explore the beliefs of others and develop our ability to justify our perspectives. We will explore three branches of philosophy as a means of understanding justified true-faith and beliefs. The learning process is designed to cultivate appreciation for diverse opinions as well as build confidence in one's own opinions. This course seeks to build a community of learners as we search the timeless truths of God's Word and construct an understanding of how Christians think about the world.

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## **REQUIRED RESOURCES**

To be developed.

