Syllabus

COMPARATIVE WORLDVIEWS:
12 MAJOR WORLDVIEWS THAT SHAPE OUR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR WORLD

Fall 2026 Online

Instructor: Robert Osburn, PhD
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Course description:

14-session online course helps you discover the assumptions behind the 12 major worldviews that cause your neighbors and their societies to flounder or flourish around the globe. Also, learn how a Christian worldview exposes the weaknesses of other worldviews while also uniquely offering great redemptive hope centered on Jesus Christ. **Course charge: $99/person.**

Course goals:

1. Understand how the concept of "worldview" relates to the search for truth
2. Learn the four major functions of worldviews
3. Learn the five criteria for evaluating and assessing worldviews
4. Learn how the 12 major worldviews answer the nine major questions that most people ask
5. Discover how worldviews help shape cultural outcomes
6. Enhance your ability to introduce Jesus Christ to your international & domestic friends
7. Download reproducible resources (including course slides) that can be used with others

Method

30-minute Instructor-led narrated slide presentation on video (watch online before class), followed by 60-minute in-class live discussion. **If you cannot make every class session, each class session is video recorded and posted online within 24 hours after the class session.**

Instructor – Robert Osburn

A Senior Fellow with Wilberforce International Institute, which he founded in 2009, Robert Osburn trains international students as redemptive change agents and writes and teaches about international development, comparative worldviews, corruption, education policy, and wealth creation. For seven years he taught courses at the University of Minnesota. He has a PhD in comparative and international development education from the University of Minnesota, a ThM from Dallas Seminary, and a BA from the University of Michigan. He has authored *Taming the Beast: Can We Bridle the Culture of Corruption?* (Revised and Updated, 2022), *Developing Redemptive Change Agents: Discipleship That Helps Nations Flourish Rather Than Flounder* (2021), and a new book on biblical leadership due to be released later in 2026. Married for 51 years, Bob and Susan are the parents of four sons, and grandparents to 13.

Fall 2026 class schedule: Mondays 7-8 pm Central time

September 14: *Why Learn about Comparative Worldviews?*
September 21: *How to Evaluate Worldviews*
September 28: *Christianity*
October 5: *Animism*
October 12: *Hinduism*
October 19: *Buddhism*
October 26: *Confucianism*
November 2: *Judaism*
November 9: *Islam*
November 16: *Naturalism*
November 23: *Nihilism*
November 30: *Existentialism*
December 7: *New Age*
December 14: *Postmodernism*

For more information on enrollment, please go to
https://www.wilberforceii.org/programs/comparative-worldviews-course/

Wilberforce International Institute