

Making Sense of Our Existence

Course Description

From times immemorial humanity has been trying to make sense of its existence. Everyday crises have confronted humanity with some nagging questions, questions that are eternal in nature, and that just won't go away. As humanity continued to generate answers to these questions and then gather the answers together, worldviews began to emerge. Some worldviews were religious, others were secular. This course will examine a variety of worldviews that humanity has developed to answer life's eternal questions.

Some Possible Topics

Introduction

- Definitions
- Characteristics of worldviews
- The Nature of religious worldviews
- The Nature of secular worldviews

Religious Worldviews

Natural Religion

Native Spirituality

Folk Religion

Judaism

Christianity

- Roman Catholicism
- Protestantism
- Fundamentalism

Islam

Hinduism

Buddhism

- Mahayana
- Tibetan

Ecumenism

Religious Liberalism

Mysticism

Pantheism

Panentheism

Shamanism

Sikhism

The "Godless Church"

Bahá'í

Zoroastrianism

Witchcraft

Secular Worldviews

Confucianism

Humanism

Existentialism

Theravada Buddhism

Zen Buddhism

Hedonism

Scientism

Astrology

Realism

Jainism

Environmentalism

Epicureanism

Objectivism (Ayn Rand)

Taoism

Marxism/Communism

Pragmatism

Philosophy