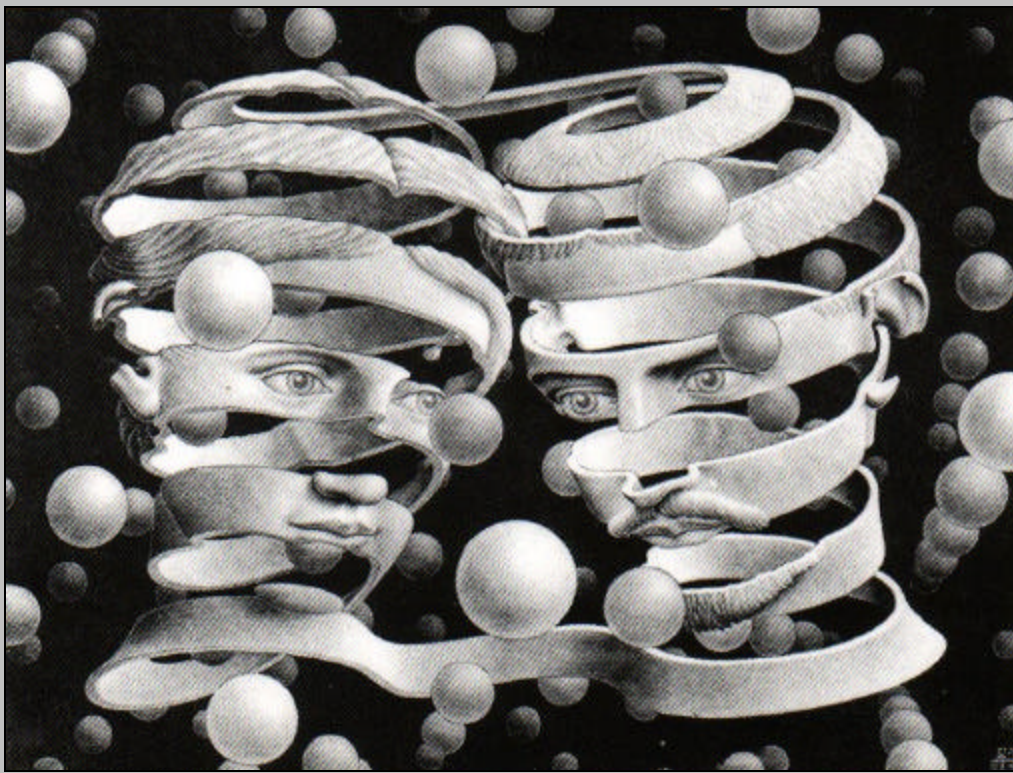


An Interdisciplinary Worldview Class

# THOUGHTS CAPTIVE

Adult & College Student Edition



**Renewing the Mind  
Reclaiming the Culture**

*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind ~ Romans 12:2*

*Do it all for the glory of God ~ I Corinthians 10:31*

A Cambridge Study Center Class  
Cambridge Study Center / 541 South Florida Avenue / Lakeland, FL 33801  
[www.cambridgestudycenter.org](http://www.cambridgestudycenter.org)

## CLASS GOALS

- ~ Cultural discernment
- ~ Critical thinking skills
- ~ Integration of scripture with life
- ~ Skills for defending the faith
- ~ Development of a Christian mind
- ~ Understanding the non-Christian mind
- ~ Knowledge of worldviews
- ~ Ability to speak about ideas
- ~ Lifelong self education priorities

*God gave [them] knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than [all the wise men] in his kingdom.*

*Daniel 1:17, 20*

*Bruce Kirby, the Director of Cambridge Study Center, brilliantly engages our culture. Would you like to understand why our culture thinks and acts as it does? Do you want to know how to engage your culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ rather than allow it to set the agenda for you and your family? Do you want to understand how to serve after the pattern of Christ's incarnation rather than retreat from the world? Then this class, offered by a leading cultural apologete, is for you! I cannot commend it too highly!*

David B. McWilliams, Ph.D., Covenant Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, Florida

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# THOUGHTS CAPTIVE *Year One*

## THE CHRISTIAN MIND AND IMAGINATION

### **THEME I: THE SEA AS METAPHOR**

**Islands in the Stream**,  
Ernest Hemingway / B\*  
**Neither Out Far Nor In Deep**,  
Robert Frost / P  
**The Old Man and the Sea**,  
Ernest Hemingway / B\*  
**Alone**, Isaac Bashevis Singer / S  
**The Corvette Claymore**,  
Victor Hugo / S  
**Meditation XVII**, John Donne / E

**The Sea Wolf**, Jack London / B\*  
**Youth**, Joseph Conrad / S  
**The Open Boat**, Stephen Crane / S  
**A Man Adrift on a Slim Spar**,  
Stephen Crane / P  
**The Weight of Glory**,  
C. S. Lewis / E

**Moby Dick**, Herman Melville / B\*  
**A Descent into the Maelstrom**,  
Edgar Allan Poe / S  
**Rime of the Ancient Mariner**,  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge / P  
**Job 38 - 42** / OT

### **THEME II: OPTIMISM TO ABSURDITY**

**All Quiet on the Western Front**  
Erich Maria Remarque / B\*  
**Dulce et Decorum Est**,  
Wilfrid Owen / P  
**Drinking from a Helmet**,  
James Dickey / P  
**Men at War**, David Gelernter / E

**Red Badge of Courage**,  
Stephen Crane / B\*  
**An Occurrence at Owl Creek  
Bridge**, Ambrose Bierce / S  
**For the Union Dead**,  
Robert Lowell / P

**The Pathfinder**,  
James Fenimore Cooper / B\*  
**Americans and Their Myths**,  
Jean-Paul Sartre / E  
**Democracy, the Common Faith of  
America**, Will Herberg / E  
**Literary Characteristics of  
Democratic Times**, Alexis  
deTocqueville / E  
**I Samuel 8 - II Samuel 1** / OT  
**I Corinthians 1:18 - 2:16** / NT

**The Activity and Art of Reading**,  
Mortimer Adler / E

**Castaway**, Robert Zemeckis / F

**Nobel Prize Speech**,  
Ernest Hemingway / A

**I Am a Rock**, Paul Simon / M

**One**, Aimee Mann / M

**This is the Sea**, The Waterboys / M

**A Sea Symphony**,  
Ralph Vaughan Williams and  
Walt Whitman / M

**Moby Dick**, John Huston / F

**Jaws**, Steven Spielberg / F

**The Tempest**,  
William Shakespeare / D

**Chumming the Ocean**,  
Archers of Loaf / M

**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**,  
William Whiting and  
John B. Dykes / M

**Catch 22**, Mike Nichols / F

**Western He ro**, Neil Young / M

**Un Chien Andalou**, Luis Bunuel and  
Salvador Dali / F

The art of **Salvador Dali** and the  
music of **The Beatles**

**Rhinoceros**, Eugene Ionesco / D

**I Have Nothing to Say and I Am  
Saying It**, about John Cage  
by Allan Miller / F

**The Star Spangled Banner**,  
Francis Scott Key (performed by  
Jimi Hendrix) / M

**Ballad of a Soldier's Wife**,  
Kurt Weill / M

**Dr. Strangelove**, Stanley Kubrick / F

**Shipbuilding**, Elvis Costello / M

**Red Army Blues**, The Waterboys / M

**The Battleship Potemkin**,  
Sergei Eisenstein / F

**The 1812 Overture**,  
Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky / M

**Ballad of the Green Berets**,  
Barry Sadler / M

## THE CHRISTIAN IN GOD'S WORLD

**Escape From Reason**, Francis Schaeffer / B\*

**Forward**

**Genesis 1 and 2** / OT

**Jeremiah 29: 1-11** / OT

**Acts 17** / NT

**God Is in the House**, Nick Cave / M

**Christianity & Culture**, James Montgomery Boice / E

**Chapter One**

**Fra Lippo Lippi**, Robert Browning / P

**Christ in the World of Thought**, Greg Bahnsen / E

**Chapter Two**

**Gotta Serve Somebody**, Bob Dylan / M

**Reason and Revelation**, Martin Luther / E

**Institutes of the Christian Religion, Chapter 1**, John Calvin / E

**Chapter Three**

**Scism**, Tool / M

**The Bear**, Robert Frost / P

**This is Man**, Thomas Wolfe / P

**Humanist Manifestos I and II** / E

**Chapter Four**

**I Did it My Way**, Frank Sinatra / M

**Existence Precedes Essence**, Jean-Paul Sartre / E

**Invictus**, William Ernest Henley / P

**Heroin**, Lou Reed / M

**On Drugs**, interview with Aldous Huxley / A

**Romans 13** / NT

**Chapter Five**

**Welcome to the Machine**, Pink Floyd / M

**Obscenity and the Law of Reflection**, Henry Miller / E

**Chapter Six**

**Sunrise, Sunset**, Bright Eyes / M

**Postmodernity: Understanding Our Generation's Thought  
Life**, Jerram Barrs / E

**Chapter Seven**

**Slow Train**, Bob Dylan / M

**School and Family in the Postmodern World**, David Elkind / E

**Reaching the Postmodern Generation**, Wade Bradshaw / E

**How to Be Polemical Without Being a Downright Nasty  
Person**, Michael Horton / E

**Romans 12: 1-2** / NT

**II Corinthians 5: 16 - 21** / NT

# THOUGHTS CAPTIVE *Year Two*

## THE CHRISTIAN MIND AND IMAGINATION

### ***THEME III: REAL LIFE & IMAGINATION***

**In Cold Blood**, Truman Capote / B\*  
**The Right Stuff** (excerpt),  
Tom Wolfe / S  
**I Went into the Maverick Bar**,  
Gary Snyder / P  
**Mexico City Blues** (excerpts),  
Jack Kerouac / P  
**Junky** (excerpt),  
William Burroughs / B  
**Kaddish**, Allen Ginsburg / P

**Night**, Elie Wiesel / B\*  
**More Light! More Light!**,  
Anthony Hecht / P  
**Christians and Pagans**,  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer / P

**Walden**, Henry David Thoreau / B\*  
**Song of Myself** Walt Whitman / P  
**The American Religion**,  
Michael Horton / E

**The Times They Are A-Changin'**,  
Bob Dylan / M

**The Times They Were A-Changin'**,  
Steve Schlissel / E

**Woodstock**,  
Michael Wadleigh / F

**Authority**, Timothy Leary / A

**Pagan Spirituality**,  
Peter Jones / E

**Our Dying Culture**, David Wells / E

**The Story of Jazz**, Matthew Seig / M

The Art of **Andy Warhol**

**Triumph of the Will**,  
Leni Riefenstahl / F

**Night and Fog**, Alain Resnais / F

**Weapons of the Spirit**,  
Pierre Sauvage / F

**The Bicycle Thief**,  
Vittorio De Sica / F

### ***THEME IV: MAN AS EVIL***

**Lord of the Flies**,  
William Golding / B\*  
**Second Coming**, W. B. Yeats / P

**Heart of Darkness**,  
Joseph Conrad / B\*  
**The Hollow Men**, T.S. Eliot / P  
**Genesis 1-3 & Romans 1-3** / OT, NT

**The Sound and the Fury**,  
William Faulkner / B\*  
**A Good Man is Hard to Find**,  
Flannery O'Connor / S

**Crime and Punishment**,  
Fyodor Dostoevsky (translator:  
Constance Garnett) / B\*  
**In the Penal Colony**,  
Franz Kafka / S  
**Sick Souls Hoping in the Suffering  
Servant**, Michael Horton / E  
**Batter My Heart**, John Donne / P  
**Romans 5: 1-7** / NT

**The Scarlet Letter**,  
Nathaniel Hawthorne / B\*  
**Psalms 51 and 1st John** / OT, NT

**Sentimentally Yours**,  
Anonymous / E

**Sex, Violence & Profanity in the  
Bible**, Brian Godowa / E

**The Addiction**, Abel Ferrara / F

The Music of **Fiona Apple, Nick  
Cave, Leonard Cohen, Sarah  
McLachlan and Tom Waits** / M

**Bestial Acts**, Kurt Weil / M

**Apocalypse Now**,  
Francis Ford Coppola / F

**Guernica**, Pablo Picasso / F

**Crimes and Misdemeanors**,  
Woody Allen / F

**The Rite of Spring**,  
Igor Stravinsky / M

**The Tragedy of Macbeth**,  
William Shakespeare / D

**Oedipus Rex**, Sophocles / D

**Hurt**, Nine Inch Nails / M  
**Hurt**, Johnny Cash / M

## THE CHRISTIAN IN GOD'S WORLD

**Modern Art and Death of a Culture**, H. R. Rookmaaker / B

### **Chapter One / The Message in the Medium**

**Ballad of a Thin Man**, Bob Dylan / M

**Art and the Bible**, Francis Schaeffer / E

**Hymn in Honor of Beauty**, Edmund Spenser / P

### **Chapter Two / The Roots of Contemporary Culture**

**What is Art?**, Leo Tolstoy / E

**Mass Culture**, Dwight MacDonald / E

### **Chapter Three / The First Step to Modern Art**

**Patterns**, Paul Simon / M

**Portraits and Repetitions**, Gertrude Stein / E

### **Chapter Four / The Second Step to Modern Art**

**Flowers Never Bend**, Paul Simon / M

**The Natural Vision: Impressionism**, Kenneth Clark / E

### **Chapter Five / The Last Steps to Modern Art**

**Songs from a Room**, Leonard Cohen / M

**Art as Individual Idea**, Pablo Picasso / E

### **Chapter Six / Into the New Era**

**The Eve of Destruction**, Barry McGuire / M

**Dadaism**, Tristan Tzara / E

### **Chapter Seven / Modern Art and the Twentieth Century Revolt**

**Action Painting**, Harold Rosenberg / E

**Modern Painting in America**, Davis, Gottlieb,  
Rothko & Pollock / E

### **Chapter Eight / Protest, Revolution and the Christian Response**

**Street Fighting Man**, The Rolling Stones / M

**The Worship of Art: Notes on the New God**, Tom Wolfe / E

# THOUGHTS CAPTIVE *Year Three*

## THE CHRISTIAN MIND AND IMAGINATION

## THE CHRISTIAN IN GOD'S WORLD

### *THEME V: MAN'S QUEST*

**A Severe Mercy**,  
Sheldon Vanauken / B\*  
**The (False) Sanction of Eros**,  
Sheldon Vanauken / E  
**To His Coy Mistress**,  
Andrew Marvell / P  
**Ode on Intimations of Immortality**,  
William Wordsworth / P  
**C.S. Lewis' Argument from  
Desire**, Peter Kreeft / E

**The Space Trilogy**, C. S. Lewis / B\*  
**The Magic Never Ends: The Life  
and Work of C. S. Lewis**,  
David Crouse / F  
**The Good Will in Man**,  
H. G. Wells / E  
**The World of the Hero**,  
P. L. Travers / E  
**The Curious Faiths of  
Anti-Heroism**, George Roche / E

**The Lord of the Rings**,  
J. R. R. Tolkien / B\*  
**J.R.R. Tolkien: Origins of Middle  
Earth**, Peter Jackson  
**The Struggle for Meaning**,  
Bruno Bettelheim / E  
**On Fairy Stories**, J. R. R. Tolkien / E

**Great Expectations**,  
Charles Dickens / B\*  
**The Village Blacksmith**,  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow / P  
**The Marshes of Glynn**,  
Sidney Lanier / P

**Gulliver's Travels**,  
Jonathan Swift / B\*  
**The Hound of Heaven**,  
Francis Thompson / P

**The Odyssey**, Homer  
(Fitzgerald translation) / P\*  
**Ulysses**, Alfred, Lord Tennyson / P  
**The Book of Ecclesiastes** / OT

**Citizen Kane**, Orson Welles / F

**Waiting for Godot**,  
Samuel Beckett / D

**Is That All There Is?**,  
Jerry Lieber & Mike Stoller / M

**Nowhere Man**, John Lennon &  
Paul McCartney / M

**Light My Fire**, The Doors / M

**I Still Haven't Found What I'm  
Looking For**, U2 / M

**Ain't No Cure for Love**,  
Leonard Cohen / M

**2001: A Space Odyssey**,  
Stanley Kubrick / F

**The Hero's Journey**,  
Joseph Campbell / F

**The Fisher King**, Terry Gilliam / F

**The Seventh Seal**,  
Ingmar Bergman / F

**The Tragical History of the Life  
and Death of Doctor Faustus**,  
Christopher Marlow / D

**A Passage to India**, David Lean / F

**Across the Universe**, John Lennon  
& Paul McCartney / M

**Amadeus**, Milos Forman / F

**The Magic Flute**,  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / M

**Hamlet**, William Shakespeare / D

**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are  
Dead**, Tom Stoppard / D

**Save Me**, Aimee Mann / M

**O Brother Where Art Thou?**,  
Coen Brothers / F

**Christianity: A Total World and Life System**,  
Abraham Kuyper / B\*

#### Chapter One / Life-system

**When You Gonna Wake Up?**, Bob Dylan

**I Peter 3:15** / NT

**The Christian and Culture**, J. Gresham Machen / E

**Worldviews: An Overview**, James Sire / E

#### Chapter Two / Religion

**Spirits in the Material World**, The Police / M

**Origins**, Desmond Morris / E

**A Free Man's Worship**, Bertrand Russell / E

**Are All Religions One?**, Douglas Groothuis / E

**Precious Angel**, Bob Dylan / M

#### Chapter Three / Politics

**Pluralism: Should We Impose Our Views?**, John Stott / E

**The Christian's Political Responsibility**, C. E. B. Cranfield / E

#### Chapter Four / Science

**Material Girl**, Madonna / M

**Dorothy, It's Really Oz**, Stephen Jay Gould / E

**Let There Be Light: Modern Cosmogony and Biblical  
Creation**, Owen Gingerich / E

#### Chapter Five / Art

**Art in Me**, Jars of Clay / M

**Art Needs No Justification**, H. R. Rookmaaker / E

#### Chapter Six / The Future

**Woodstock**, Joni Mitchell / M

**The Doctrine of Vocation**, Gene Veith / E

**How to Discover Your Calling**, Michael Horton / E

**Christianity and the Survival of Creation**, Wendell Berry / E

**Psalms 8 and Romans 8** / OT, NT

**Revelation 21: 1 - 22:6** / NT

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is *Thoughts Captive*?**

♦ *Thoughts Captive* is a class about worldviews. It prepares students for the challenges of life by examining non-Christian worldviews and carefully developing a worldview that is Christ centered. Through our examination of literature, film, music, drama and art the student acquires the strong apologetic skills necessary for making an impact on the world in which we live. Careful consideration of works by C. S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer and others prepare the student for a lifetime of practical and constructive involvement in a world that desperately needs the Gospel.

## **How are *Thoughts Captive* classes conducted?**

♦ Even though the atmosphere of the class is relaxed, *Thoughts Captive* classes are intense and interactive. Students are required to do directed study outside of class preparing them for interaction with the instructor and other students. In class they will often hear music, see a play, view a film or read a short work of literature that requires their immediate discussion. Cambridge instructors begin with the concrete before seeking an understanding of the abstract. Practice is considered before theory. Cambridge instructors call this approach Parabolic Method. It is the same method Jesus used when teaching the disciples and we believe it is the best method for teaching our students.

## **Is *Thoughts Captive* practical?**

♦ It is practical and, we believe, the best preparation for life. It goes beyond rote memorization, teaching critical thinking skills useful in any class or vocation and it prepares them for non-Christian worldviews they will encounter at the college and university level, on the job or in the neighborhood.

## **Is there some advantage to be gained by teaching a variety of subjects in one class?**

♦ Yes, good critical thinking includes the ability to cross reference other disciplines as well as the ability to apply scriptural absolutes to all disciplines. The interdisciplinary approach of *Thoughts Captive* provides ample opportunity for the student to develop these cross referencing skills.

## **Is there much reading for *Thoughts Captive*?**

♦ Students who wish to take *Thoughts Captive* must be ready to do a significant amount of reading. The amount of time this takes depends on the ability of the student to read quickly and think critically about the material. The student's ability to do this will improve with time.

## **Who supplies the reading materials for this class?**

♦ The student is responsible to purchase the books. These books are marked with an asterisk in the curriculum outline. Unmarked items will be supplied by the study center.

## **What is the theological position of your instructors?**

♦ The instructors of *Thoughts Captive* are conservative, evangelical, and Reformed in their theology.

## **What does "Reformed" mean?**

♦ Reformed means that the priorities of the Reformation are emphasized, among them: 1) re-forming the church to be like the first century church; 2) the authority of scripture; 3) God's sovereignty; 4) man's inability to save himself; 5) salvation through grace alone; 6) the sufficiency of Christ; and 7) an understanding that man is created in God's image, rational, creative, with a conscience and free.

## **Is it worldly to spend time considering non-Christian worldviews?**

♦ Not only is it not "worldly," the scriptures commend it. In I Chronicles 12:32 it is mentioned that the men of Issachar knew what Israel should do because they "understood the times." Daniel 1:17 and 20 states that God gave Daniel and his friends knowledge of "all kinds of literature and learning" making them the wisest of the king's wise men. And in Acts 17 we see Paul using his carefully studied knowledge of a pagan culture to share the Gospel. We must not go into the world unprepared. If we are to be truly evangelical we must "understand the times." This means we must know the scriptures, but we also must know the enemy who seeks to devour us (I Peter 5:8). *Thoughts Captive* is "boot camp" for college students and adults.

## **I have noticed that films are part of the curriculum. Aren't movies part of what is wrong with our culture?**

♦ Yes, movies are a problem in our culture. They discourage us from reading, and they often teach worldviews that are non-Christian or anti-Christian. This is precisely the reason we study films. Whether we like it or not movies are a part of the world we live in, and our families, friends, and neighbors are influenced by them. If we do not understand movies, we do not understand our culture. *Thoughts Captive* instructors endeavor to equip each student with the critical skills necessary to understand film. One should also remember that film is a legitimate art form that deserves a place in any curriculum that studies the world in which we live.

## **Will my student find objectionable material in *Thoughts Captive*?**

♦ From time to time there will be crude language, violence and reference to sexual situations in the material covered. The instructor will edit any films which contains scenes that are sexually explicit. All materials will be handled in a way which encourages the development of the maturity necessary for meaningful engagement of a fallen world.

## **Will every item in the *Thoughts Captive* curriculum outline be covered in class?**

♦ Our goal is to cover everything in the curriculum outline, however some classes move slower than others and some items in the curriculum may be passed over to keep the class on schedule.

## **Where do these classes meet?**

♦ We usually meet at the study center, however *Thoughts Captive* can be exported to other venues. Cambridge instructors will consider meeting anywhere that is convenient for the students.

## **What other opportunities does Cambridge offer students?**

♦ Cambridge offers film nights, seminars, workshops, and year-long classes in the arts, worldview studies and leadership skills. The study center also offers field trips for students who wish to participate.

KEY

A = Audio Recording

B = Book

D = Drama

E = Essay

F = Film

M = Music

NT = New Testament

OT = Old Testament

P = Poem

S = Short Story

\* = Student Purchase

This curriculum may not be used in its entirety or in part without the written permission of Bruce Kirby.



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