

GOODNEWS@ABC

OUR MISSION: PREPARING PEOPLE FOR WHATEVER GOD'S NEXT IS FOR THEM.

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Ninety Years Old and Thankful!

By Shannon Gugyel (Dean of Institutional Care)

Our 2022–2023 academic year is underway, and we are thankful. We celebrated our ninetieth year the weekend of September 16–18. New faces populate our team (you will meet them shortly!) as our student body settles into life at ABC. Our president is promoting ABC in his Canada-wide travels, connecting with various churches and ministries, teaching, preaching, and getting the word out about the offerings at ABC. Our board is finalizing our new strategic plan, and the administration works to fulfill our mission of **PREPARING PEOPLE FOR WHATEVER GOD'S NEXT IS FOR THEM.**

Throughout COVID-19, ABC has not wavered in serving students through quality Christian higher education. To be sure, challenges are present. Food and housing insecurity has impacted our community and mental health has been detrimentally affected.

But God! We honour our God, the Creator of Possibilities, thankful and encouraged that, "...with God nothing [is or ever] shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37, Amplified).

Thank you for your continued assistance. The giving of resources – prayer support, financial donations, committed volunteerism – has been fundamental in keeping ABC going for ninety years. We thank God for you!

UPCOMING PACE COURSES:

NOV 8 - DEC 13 (Register by Nov 1)

- B3025 Grasping God's Word
- B3325 Christian Theology (PACE@Home)
- B4115 The Books of Poetry and Wisdom
- P3206 Thriving in Transition (PACE@Home)
- P3535 Counselling Theory
- P4425 Spiritual Formation

JAN 3 - FEB 7, 2023 (Register by Dec 27)

- B3275 Life & Teachings of Jesus
- B3285 Acts of the Apostles
- G2010 Academic Research & Writing
- G3515 Contemporary Thought (PACE@Home)
- P3135 Introduction to Preaching
- P3206 Thriving in Transition
- P4515 Crisis Counselling

FEB 14 - MAR 21 (Register by Feb 7)

- B3275 Life & Teachings of Jesus (PACE@Home)
- B4114 The Pentateuch
- G3515 Contemporary Thought
- G4435 Developmental Psychology
- P3345 Non-Profit Financial Management
- P3555 Introduction to Addictions

Meet Hugo

By Hugo Nogueira (Enrollment Coordinator)



Growing up as the son of a pastor in Mexico, I was instructed in the powerful Word of God. This learning provided a profound foundation of Christ in my life, specifically related to how one can live in relationship with our Heavenly Father. Through the years, I have grown in my faith and convictions and this growth led me to pursue a life devoted to ministry, as reflected in my desire to complete a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree at Alberta Bible College (ABC). I arrived in Canada with my young family in December 2021, and the adventure began.

I am an objective person, and I find comfort in looking for reasonable ways to fulfill my goals. I enjoy seeing people growing around me. Together with my wife Belgica, I look for paths to give assistance to anyone in need, because we are called to be conformed to the image of Jesus (Rom 8:29), who is our perfect example of how to love our neighbours. I believe God has been showing me day by day how I may be a light and I joyfully follow His ways.

I have a bachelor's degree in Business Management from South's University, in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, and I previously worked in the hotel and tourism industry at world-renowned resorts. Becoming a teacher, who can deliver the Word of God to those who are looking to step forward in their personal faith journey, motivates me.

As an international student in my new home here in Canada, I look every day for opportunities to help others as my family and I have been helped. I believe higher education in biblical studies, including theology, counselling, leadership, and other areas, is an amazing way to aid Christians find their way and place within the Body of Christ. Being able to work in the Enrollment Office as an enrollment coordinator is a great way for me to meet individuals searching for God's next. I am inspired to give my best each day so that ABC is a safe space and a loving environment for those searching for our God of love. I look forward to helping the ABC student body grow both in number and spiritually in the days ahead.

Upcoming Winter College Courses

January 9 - April 21, 2023 (Register by Jan 2)

- B121 New Testament Literature
- G131 Contemporary Thought
- G245 Psychology of the Family
- G251 Canadian Sociology
- G281 Arts and Culture
- G312 Introductory Greek II
- G327 North American Christian History
- P108 Vocational Seminar
- P206 Living the Story
- P313 Introduction to Preaching
- P322 Building Community
- P413 Advanced Preaching



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Meet Launa

By Wilauna Usselman (Enrollment Coordinator)



Well, hi there! My name is Wilauna Usselman, and I am a unique individual who loves God with her whole being and loves her cats (of which I have two). I am in the process of obtaining my degree in Theology at Alberta Bible College (ABC), but this is not my first time being a student at ABC. I received my diploma in Ministry and Leadership in 2017. I have a great love for this school and its community. They have not only played a big part in my growth as a person but played a rather large role in molding and guiding me in my personal walk with God.

I have a passion and a heart for youth and young adults and have served in both youth and young adult ministries in various roles for the last 20 years. I am also the founder and director of Kinship Young Adult Conference. This has been a passion and heart project since 2018 and I am excited to see where God takes this ministry and how it will bless the young adult community.

I am known for my quirky personality and a laugh that not only fills the room but will fill your heart; my arms are always ready to hug anyone who needs one, and I am eager to sit and talk over coffee, or tea, about God, the world, or even my love for my cats. I am looking forward to bringing my passion and uniqueness to my new role as an ABC enrollment coordinator, with the goal of growing our student body so others can experience and journey with this amazing community.

Meet Rachel

By Rachel Hart, MCS (Registrar)



I joined the ABC Team earlier this year after graduating with my Master's in Christian Studies from Ambrose University; I previously earned a Bachelor's in History from Oklahoma Christian University. I am passionate about theology and higher education and the ways both can come together to help us flourish, individually and collectively. My research interests include contemplative theology, religious trauma, and the relationship between culture and Christianity.

I have lived in various places in the US and Canada before settling here in Calgary and am a proud Third Culture Kid (TCK - someone who has grown up in several different cultures). My husband and I devote considerable time to working with other TCKs, including missionary kids, military kids, and other cross-cultural people. In addition to TCK work and theology, I am also passionate about dance and visual arts.

As Registrar at ABC, I am the go-to resource for students looking to plan their courses, understand their degree audit, and find out what they need to graduate. I handle student files and paperwork and am also responsible for evaluating applications and helping new students get their bearings at ABC.

ABC Community Food Resources

By Shannon Gugyel (Dean of Institutional Care)

All around us, neighbours are experiencing difficult times. COVID-19 has taken a toll on the capacity of not only our healthcare workers and system, but also on various other systems and their employees. Specifically, those community entities serving vulnerable populations have struggled to keep up with the varying demands over the past thirty-one months or so. Factors such as increased substance use, suicide and self harm, intimate partner violence and domestic abuse, as well as sexual exploitation and gun violence are but a few of the behavioural outcomes of mental health crises capturing headlines.

When we consider [shrinkflation](#) and inflation, record gas prices and rapidly increasing interest rates, wars and rhetoric around World War III, as well as weather disasters and global climate change, is it any surprise that food shortages and high food costs are drastically impacting families' budgets? Choosing between paying for housing and utility bills or buying food is what a growing number of individuals face each day.



[Food insecurity is on the rise](#) across Canada and around the planet. While worldwide hunger is an ongoing issue, there is a distinct local challenge with food insecurity impacting those living, studying, and working [in our midst](#). We rarely know the extent of the crises, or the details of chronic stressors individuals deal with unless they feel safe enough to share the harsh reality of not having enough food each day. Several barriers prevent people from disclosing the truth about their circumstances. Fear of judgment from others is one, as is the associated stigmatization that occurs. We also need to help dismantle stigma associated with food insecurity. As followers of Jesus, we need to feed our neighbours who are hungry, not pass judgment on why they are experiencing food insecurity.

In 2022, our ABC community has experienced an increase in food insecurity. Some students and their families have had to rely on the Calgary Food Bank and the Interfaith Food Bank. Though hard to hear, it is a fact. Because of the amplified demand on food agencies, not all needs are being met, exposing a gap in accessing services.

Thanks to a couple of generous individuals who love ABC, we are now receiving food items on a weekly basis for anyone in our community who has, or knows of, a need. Currently, food is available for pick up from 9-5 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays out of the Enrollment Office. We generally have various non-perishables as well as some fresh items on hand. If you or your family require specific support, here are some [additional resources](#). Feel free to contact [Shannon](#) or [Cory](#) for more information about how ABC can assist you. If you would like to donate to this cause, please call 403.282.2994 ext. 230 to find out how to help us feed our community.

Field Experience: A Personal Experience

By Hugo Nogueira (Enrollment Coordinator)

Field Experience (FE) is a course that allows me to venture into the facets of exploring who I am as a Christian. It is tangible action that challenges and / or affirms my beliefs and my faith, even stretching me in order to teach me skills and values required to engage the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). As I reflect from my perspective as a college student, there are many things I love. My foundation as a Christian is being reinforced; the Word of God is not just theoretical, I get to explore the practicality of the beliefs I hold.

Participating in Field Experience has allowed me to go to different places where I could show compassion and serve others, and it has been a fundamental experience for me, a person looking to prepare for ministry. For example, the Mustard Seed, a non-profit organization that helps vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, provides different services while also delivering the Word of God. As a volunteer through FE, I assist with activities like games or videos, with the goal of building relationships and my confidence to approach people, and really connect with them, listening to their stories and sharing the love of God.

As a student at ABC, FE has challenged me to become aware of my own biases as I interact with people at the Mustard Seed, and to be deliberate in hearing others as I learn how to respond in compassionate and friendly ways. I have had to take the first step and get out of my comfort zone. Nevertheless, FE has taught me to be brave; I have discovered that getting close to people is very rewarding. As I pray with individuals, I reaffirm my belief that God is with us all. He listens to us, and we can trust Him. Through FE, He works through me to reach those who need a merciful Father.

UPCOMING PACE COURSE

Thriving in Transition (Jan 3 - Feb 7, 2023)

Register by December 27

Within community and alongside an exploration of their personal narratives, students will consider five themes: transition, work, vocational call, personality theory, and discernment as they seek to find and follow the particular direction and purpose that God intends for them.

WHAT'S PACE?



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ABC's 90th Anniversary Celebration

By Kim Salcedo (Enrollment Officer)

The ABC 90th Anniversary, held September 16, 17, and 18, 2022, had it all! The weekend book sale was hosted by our proficient librarian, Marissa Moore. On Friday evening Bow Valley Christian Church's fabulous worship leader, Pete Justine and his very talented wife, Josanna, led an energetic hymn sing. ABC alumni and supporters shared a time of reconnecting during a mini-reunion over snacks and beverages.

A special thanks to Jim Chapman and John Nicholson for sharing their insights and stories on this milestone birthday for ABC! Jim Chapman, 98, spoke historically about ABC and the continuing role the college has in training leaders. Linn Rehn, our resident archivist, with help from her husband, Rick, set up various pictorial and memorabilia-rich displays depicting nine decades of ABC's history.

Charlene Graffunder and Peter Kehler provided the food for the evening, and, of course birthday cake, which was delicious. We shared laughs and stories with both familiar and new faces who were connected through their time at ABC. Thank you to all our guests who made the night together so memorable!

On Saturday, we had carnival games, bouncy houses, and food trucks to help us celebrate the milestone birthday with our community neighbours in Cambrian Heights and surrounding neighbourhoods. We enjoyed lots of food while listening to Jennifer Jade Kerr, recording artist from Saskatchewan, who led us in a great time of music and celebration. Pete and Josanna, again, added their musical gifts to the afternoon, and Reverend Tony Snow and Indigenous dancer Tobias Ear, both from the Stoney Nakoda nation, led us on a learning journey as we heard about Truth and Reconciliation. There were plenty of children who enjoyed the carnival-like atmosphere, playing games and winning prizes. A fun time was had by all!

On Sunday, our current students, staff, adjuncts, and board members shared a meal together and got to know one another better. Rachel Hart, ABC's registrar, was our hostess for the night. Oh, and there was more birthday cake, too! It was a fantastic weekend, being with people who share ABC's past, present, and future. We are excited to help people achieve God's next in their lives and look forward to celebrating our hundredth year in 2032!

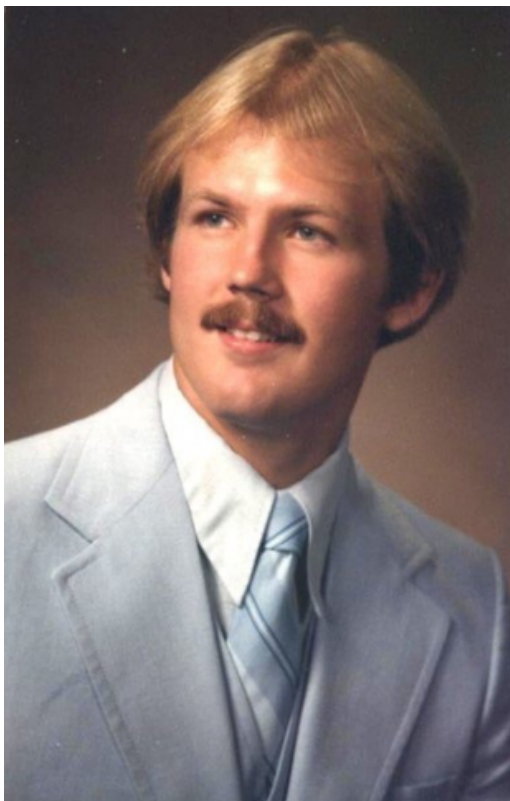


Happy 60th Birthday, Dr. Stanley Helton

By Jana Brown (PACE Student, Marketing Team Member)

The year was 1962...

- The #1 song on the Music Charts – Big Girls Don't Cry by The Four Seasons
- Top Movies – Lawrence of Arabia and To Kill a Mockingbird
- New Book Release – One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey
- Winner of the Stanley Cup – Toronto Maple Leafs
- Winner of the World Series – New York Yankees
- American Broadcasting Company released its first color TV Series – The Jetsons
- Marvel's Spiderman made his first appearance in a comic
- Telstar became the first communications satellite intended for regular service
- The Modern King James Version (MKJV) was first released
- Stanley N. Helton was born



Please join us on November 13, 2022, as we wish our esteemed President a Happy 60th Birthday. Throughout the past seven years, Dr. Helton's strength and wisdom have been a source of comfort for the students and staff of Alberta Bible College. He has faithfully led us through many transitions, often creating solutions before problems even existed. We want to take this opportunity to honour our leader as we thank the Lord for Dr. Stan's daily kindness, innovation, and dedication he displays. Dr. Stan, may your birthday be filled with an abundance of blessings... you deserve it!

"So he was their shepherd according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands." Psalm 78:72

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To celebrate his birthday, Dr. Helton is hosting his [3rd Annual Birthday Fundraiser](#). This year's goal is to raise \$6,000 (USD) for Alberta Bible College. Always willing to go the extra mile for a cause so dear to his heart, our President has committed to shaving his beard (he has had facial hair since grade 11, by the way!) if he reaches the \$6,000 goal. Furthermore, if he can double his expectations and raise \$12,000 (USD), he promises to shave his eyebrows too. What a great sport—help us get a gander at that babyface!



Ways to donate:

- Visit our website at www.abccampus.ca
- [Stan's Facebook page](#)
- E-transfer finance@abccampus.ca (indicate Stan's Birthday Fundraiser)
- Call ABC with your credit card information at 403.282.2994 or toll free at 1.877.542.9492
- Mail a cheque to Alberta Bible College at 635 Northmount Drive NW Calgary AB T2K 3J6

Make sure to direct your gift by indicating "Stan's Bday"

All proceeds go directly to Alberta Bible College. This fundraiser goes until November 30, 2022.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us wish a (hopefully!) **beardless** (and maybe eyebrow-less!) Stan a very happy 60th birthday!

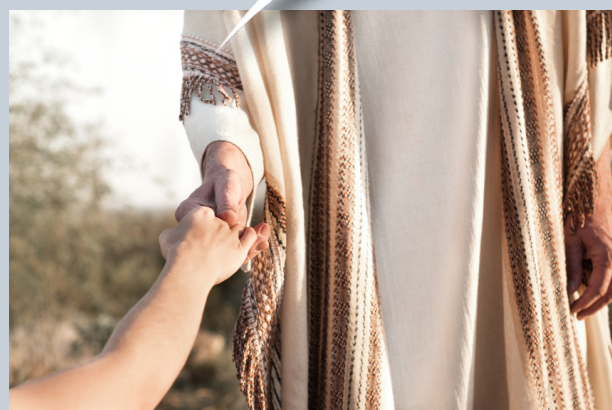
UPCOMING PACE COURSE

[Life & Teachings of Jesus \(Jan 3 - Feb 7, 2023\)](#)

Register by December 27

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The life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth will be explored according to the material presented in the synoptic gospels. Particular attention will be given to the historical, political, and cultural background of 1st century Palestine.



For inquiries email admissions@abccampus.ca

WHAT'S PACE?



-Merrill William Nicholson-

By Merrill's Family

No words can express the love, respect, and appreciation we brothers have for our father, Merrill Nicholson. It will be difficult in so few words to give a full picture of this remarkable man. "Dad," as we were privileged to refer to him, had a tremendous influence on our lives, and his greatest joy was knowing that his boys loved the Lord. We boys, his 'critters,' have the greatest love and respect for him.



Raised on a farm in Hazel Grove, Prince Edward Island, it was often said that if you couldn't find him when chores were to be done, just go to the piano; he learned the basics from an aunt. Later, his father would take him to the train station in Hunter River on Saturdays to go to Charlottetown to take pipe organ lessons.

He attended Prince of Wales College and completing his studies there, he left home and headed west to attend Alberta Bible College where he met our mother, Mary Lucille Spaeth. She was a beautiful, Christ-committed woman who was a gifted pianist and voice teacher. Dad next went to Cincinnati Bible Seminary, and while there, took courses at the University of Cincinnati (one of his fondest memories was attending a lecture by Robert Frost). In his yearbook from the University of Cincinnati, many had written in it, but one person's message struck home: "To the Liberacé of the north." The recognition was not an unfair comparison. Dad had a wonderful sense of musicality, and music has always been a part of our home, And no matter where Father was—church, home, seniors' facility, Value Village—if he spied a piano, he would often sit down and play.

Life changed dramatically for Dad and his boys when his beloved wife passed away at a young age. Now Father would raise three boys, at that time, ages 8, 6, and 4, without her. Dad began teaching at one of the local high schools. For about three years, his mother, Stella, a former den mother for students at ABC, lived with us and helped to bear the load until her health no longer permitted. From then on, we batched it!

"Merrill" possessed a bright, inquisitive mind and a voracious appetite for learning. He loved to tell stories, and in his younger days he was a real prankster. In his golden years, he was one of the family historians and could rhyme off the names of more people than any of us could commit to memory. Like Leviticus, we would hear him say, "...and so and so begat so and so" and so on!

He was also a wonderful cook. He rarely used a recipe and could whip up a meal in no time. He had a sweet tooth and was known for his legendary fudge.

Dad could do anything he put his mind to, including drama, art, needlepoint, knitting, etc. He wrote speeches for a politician (Liberal, of course!) and he was a fantastic teacher. While raising us, he continued to upgrade his education and eventually became a principal and spearheaded a new approach to education in the early 1970s. In his later years, former students would go out of their way to say hello and tell him what an influence he had been on their lives. His accomplishments were many, though he spoke not of them.

To maintain some semblance of sanity while raising three sweet, respectful, studious boys, he became interested in antiques. His knowledge was voluminous and he enjoyed interacting with people from all stations of life. He would often say to us that when we were grown, he was going to return to the ministry. It truly was where his heart was. So, when we all attended Alberta Bible College in 1977, we called him up and said, "Well Dad, we're gone!"

When the school year was over, he put in for a leave of absence and headed to Portage La Prairie, Manitoba where he would remain for seven years. He next moved to Regina, Saskatchewan and preached for another twenty-nine years, serving churches in Regina and Yellowgrass. While ministering to small congregations which could not afford to pay a full-time preacher, he turned his antiquing hobby into a business and opened an antique shop. The store not only provided him with some income but offered him the opportunity to interact with so many folks. In his mind, he saw these moments as opportunities to serve on behalf of our Lord.

We finally convinced him to move "home" in 2015. Once settled into his new home, Dad took every opportunity he could to preach and lead services at local churches and seniors' homes. The following year, we had the privilege of taking our father to Scotland to see where the Nicholson clan had originated centuries ago. It was a memorable experience for all. Dad also continued to purchase items he thought could be an investment and he was often seen at Bibles for Missions or Value Village before his health slowed him down.

As it became difficult to get around, he became housebound for the last couple of years, but it didn't stop him from reading a book or the scriptures and listening to classical music or writing sermons he would never preach. However, he did write and present twenty-six online devotions on Facebook during COVID-19. The plan is to post these on a Youtube channel at some point so others can listen if they so desire. His television watching was varied. From *Murder She Wrote* (his favourite) to *Father Brown* to CPAC, News Channels, and then to *Say Yes to the Dress* and *Judge Judy*, he could flick through channels faster than anyone! If you were to speak with him and ask how he was doing, his typical response was, "Just waiting for the call." Towards the end of his race, he was becoming increasingly eager to go "home." He longed to be with the Lord.

We have inherited a rich legacy from our dad and give thanks to our Lord for this man who had to take on a huge challenge. Through it all, he had complete confidence in the Lord and was often heard saying, "The Lord will provide." And so He did.

Merrill passed away on August 24, 2021, at his home.

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A tribute to Leeta Whitrow

By Ron Fraser (Former President of Alberta Bible College)

Leeta was born in Prince Edward Island, coming west in 1947. At Alberta Bible College (ABC) she met Ralph Whitrow. They would celebrate 62 years of marriage. Ralph and Leeta helped plant a church in Morin Creek, Saskatchewan, then ministered to the Great Bend, Taber and Wrentham, Alberta congregations. Later, they were back in Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, where Ralph had grown up. In addition to congregations, Ralph and Leeta were faithful and generous supporters of Restoration Movement camps and colleges across Canada and missionary endeavours beyond.



L to R son Stirling, daughters Florence Ann and Monelle, Leeta and Ralph



June Banting (L) and Leeta (R) cooking up a surprise at Big River Bible Camp, mid '50's

Leeta is perhaps best known for her gift of hospitality. Her numerous guest books are filled with testimonies to the warmth that guests experienced in her home. She was adept at not only “making room” for others, but of making guests feel special. Whether folk were stopping in to say, “Hi,” staying overnight, a college folks staying for a week, or strangers invited for Sunday lunch, Leeta made sure they felt comfortable and welcome. When people could not come to their place, she took it on the road: a meal for a shut in here, a cake, pie, or a plate of cookies there. Travelling with Leeta was a picnic on wheels! Leeta served as a cook for numerous summer camps.

Local grocery stores would have gone bankrupt if everyone shopped like Leeta. They lived out of their garden—year around—as well as sharing produce and flowers with others. Leeta’s many ribbons at the Weyburn Fair reflected her gardening and culinary prowess.

Limited financial means were never an impediment to the wealth of kindness and generosity she lived. Indeed, the generosity of Tabitha with clothing as recorded in the Book of Acts mirrors Leeta’s sharing of food and space.

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Leeta and Ralph in their garden

Hospitality though, is not just about food and space. Hospitality is rooted in an open heart towards others rooted in faith and love. Leeta noticed, and treasured people by getting to know people. Her diaries and 'newsy' weekly notes to family, are a historian's treasure trove! But they are that because she honoured the details that make our journeys sweet. Gathering around a table for food was just the beginning of a visit. Folk would stay for morning Scripture and prayer, visiting and card games in the evening. Leeta's was truly a happy place, humbly and quietly provided.

Some speak the Good News in words. Leeta did it through her hospitality.



Leeta enjoying a game with grand children

UPCOMING PACE@HOME COURSE

Contemporary Thought (Jan 3 - Feb 7, 2023)

Register by December 27

This course considers major philosophies and significant religious movements in order to understand the concept of worldview. A Christian worldview, as well as a Christian approach to other worldview perspectives, is presented.

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