Wednesday, January 7: Introduction

Readings

- The only required texts for this course are the two books common to all DCM sections
  - *DCM Reader*
  - *Engaging God’s World* by Plantinga

- In addition to the readings from the two books above, there will be a number of additional readings and handouts. To defray the cost of these copies, each student must pay (cash or check) $10 to Sue Sweetman (Science Division Office) for copy costs.

- I also recommend the use of a 3-ring binder to keep your work and the handouts organized.

Class

- 8:30–8:40 Welcome
- 8:50–9:00 General Introduction to DCM
- 9:00–9:50 Plenary Lecture: *How to Be Happy in College – and For the Rest of Your Life*, L Smit
  - As you walk over to the lecture, ask yourself: When have I been especially happy? What situations make me happiest? How important is it for me to be happy?
  - What was the most important thing the speaker said?
  - What was the most interesting/startling/challenging thing the speaker said?
  - What does the speaker mean by *happiness*? How does she propose Christians obtain happiness?
  - Pay careful attention to the use of two other words: *freedom* and *prudence*.
- 10:30–11:50: Introduction, Discussion
  - *Pollster says churches put too much value on numbers* (GR Press article by David Yonke)

Miscellaneous

- The course homepage is located at [http://www.calvin.edu/~rpruim/courses/dcm/04/](http://www.calvin.edu/~rpruim/courses/dcm/04/)

- Extra copies of materials distributed in class will be placed in the box outside my office. Materials I produce will often be available on the course web page.

- From time to time we will discuss topics or do activities in small groups. The table on the next page will be used for making the groups. It also includes email addresses in case you need to contact a member of the class.
Each student is assigned a letter and a number according to the table below. We will use these letters and numbers to form groups.

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<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
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<th>Name (email)</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barendregh, Dana M. (<a href="mailto:dmb8@calvin.edu">dmb8@calvin.edu</a>)</td>
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<td>Blech, Jeffrey T. (<a href="mailto:jtb2@calvin.edu">jtb2@calvin.edu</a>)</td>
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Thursday, January 8

Required Readings

• Plantinga, Preface
• Colson, *What Are We Doing Here?*
• Garber, *To See What You See*
• From the DCM Reader:
  – Preface
  – Chapter 1 Introduction
  – Sire, *What is a Worldview?*
• Plantinga, Chapter 1, *Longing and Hope*

Other Preparation

• Prepare reading notes for each of the readings. **You will be allowed to use these notes when you take your quiz** tomorrow, and you will be **required to turn them in** with your quiz. (You will get them back.)

• Here is how I recommend you read:
  – Look over any pre-reading questions that either come with the reading (**see the DCM Reader Points to Look For**) or that I give you. These questions will help you place the reading in context as you go along. (You might also quickly scan over the reading to see if it has things like section headings that will help you see the general outline before you begin.)
  – As you read, underline, highlight, make marginal notes, etc. Also keep a piece of paper handy to jot down questions or ideas that don’t fit in the margins of the text. When you finish reading, go back and organize these into reading notes. Include in these notes any questions you have, points you don’t think you understand, etc. You might also like to leave space to add things to your notes during class discussion.
  – After doing all the readings for the day put your notes aside and see if you can remember the main points of each reading and any important connections, similarities, disagreements, etc. among the readings.

• Treat plenary talks much like readings (perhaps think of them as listenings). Your “reading notes” should include notes based on the plenary lecture if there was one.

• Be prepared for the quiz.

Most days will begin with a short quiz. The quiz may have multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions on it. Typically we will grade it in class immediately after taking it. The quizzes serve two purposes: to check that you have done the reading and understood its main points, and to bring up issues for further discussion in class.
Response essay

- In response to the reading, I would like you to respond to the following statement:

  It is important to be aware of one's own worldview.

Your response should be typed with double or line-and-a-half spacing. The length should be between a paragraph and a page. If you think it is important, I would rather that you pick just one or two reasons and elaborate rather than that you make a list of every reason you can think of.

Class

- 8:30–9:50: Devotions (John 3:16), Quiz, Discussion
- 10:30–11:50: More Discussion
  - Pre-Course Survey
  - The story of the Lady Tasting Tea
Friday, January 9

Required Reading

- Kenneth Woodward, “Spiritual Pilgrimage in an Age Of World Views” (January Series)
  - You can go to the talk, listen online, or watch on Calvin Cable TV (only if overflow)
  - Pay attention to his main point and any comments he makes that relate to our readings and discussion of world views.
- Fee & Stuart, *The Need to Interpret*
- Salsbury, *The Lady Tasting Tea*, Preface and Chapter 1
  - What do you see in this reading that relates to the topic of worldview?

Looking Ahead

Early next week we will be talking, listening and reading about Creation. There is a substantial amount of reading on that topic. If you want to get a head start on that reading, you can read

- Plantinga, Chapter 2: *Creation*
- DCM Reader, Chapter 3 (I may not assign all the sections, but the first three will be assigned.)

Other Preparation

- Remember to make reading notes (including notes of the January Series lecture).
- No response essay is required this time.

Class

- 8:30–9:50: Devotions, Quiz, Discussion
- 10:30–11:50: Getting Survey Information
What is Statistics?

See the course web page for several definitions, each of which shares four key components:

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•

•

Outline of a Statistical Study

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Three key measurement issues:

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•
Thinking About Creation

This weekend you will be reading a number of articles about creation, and next Monday our plenary talk is entitled *An Astronomer’s View of Creation*. To get us thinking about the issues involved, here are two discussion questions. Below each question are some possible answers. Which answer comes closest to what you think?

1. How should Christians think about science?
   (a) A lot of scientists are atheists who try to use science to disprove God. Christians should do science to try to prove that science and the Bible agree.
   (b) There may be conflicts between science and Christianity, but we don’t need to worry about them. We know the Bible is true. If you know Jesus and serve him, that’s what’s really important.
   (c) There aren’t really any conflicts between science and Christianity because science and religion are separate things. Science tells us how the world works and the Bible tells us about God. Science can’t disprove Christianity and the Bible doesn’t teach science.

   If you don’t like any of these options how would you answer the question?

2. When you think about the world in which we live, how would you describe your typical attitude?
   (a) This world is an amazing place, full of beauty. We should enjoy it, study it, and take care of it.
   (b) This world is full of weeds and sickness and sin. To the extent that this world is enjoyable, it tempts us away from God. Our goal should be to leave this world behind and concentrate on heaven.
   (c) This world is a battleground between good and evil. Some of it is good, but some of it is under Satan’s power because of sin. As we live in this world, we need to fight on God’s side.
   (d) This physical world is unimportant (and ultimately irrelevant) compared to the spiritual. The physical world is just a stage, the truly important realm is the spiritual.

   If you don’t like any of the above answers, how would you answer the question?