BS400

CHRISTIAN THINKING ON MANAGEMENT

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name | BS400 Christian Thinking on Management
---|---
Nominal Duration | 12 weeks
Delivery Mode | External
Workload | Topic readings, exercises, review of study materials 60 hours
| Assignment preparation 60 hours
| TOTAL 120 hours
Weight | 10 credit points
Unit Coordinator | D'Wayne Wigley
Teaching Staff | D'Wayne Wigley
Co / Prerequisite Units | Nil
Core / Elective | Graduate Certificate in Management: Core
| Graduate Diploma in Management: Core
Rationale | The impact of worldviews and ethics on management practice is far-reaching: how we think, act and the decisions we make, whether in for-profit or not-for-profit organizations, will reflect the manager’s worldview. We tend to think that we have consciously chosen to adopt a worldview as our own. More often, however, our responses to the world around us are shaped by a set of presuppositions of which we are often barely conscious and which are rarely exposed to reflection and criticism. Even Christians with a conscious commitment to the Bible as a guide to life and thought find that the culture in which they live has shaped their patterns of thought and action in profound ways.

This unit is central to the postgraduate Business courses. It begins with the analysis of key elements of a Christian worldview, and the impact of dualistic and holistic modes of thinking and application in business and the marketplace.

A manager’s worldview impacts on how he or she thinks about people. Students will thus consider such questions as: How do we think about employees and customers? What are our responsibilities to employers, peers, bosses, congregation members, God and all other stakeholders? How do we exhibit the teachings of Christ in a ‘bottom-line’ driven world?

Through this unit, students will be challenged to investigate and develop a personal worldview which is a consistent expression of their thinking and action. They will develop the capacity to articulate and defend this worldview, and to understand the worldviews of others.

Outcomes | On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they are able to:
| 1. Theologically defend the integration of business and missions.
| 2. Discuss biblical principles relating to work, business and stewardship.
| 3. Understand the meaning of purpose and empowerment in life’s vocations.
| 4. Critically examine issues and problems in Christian approaches to business management.
| 5. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various business-mission models in various contexts.
| 6. Apply ethical principles in business decision-making.
Content | Topic | Content
| 1 | Introduction to Christian Spirituality and Philosophy
| 2 | Faith and Work
| 3 | What is Missional Business?
| 4 | BAM and Other Models
| 5 | Case Study
| 6 | Business as Mission – How To Do It
| 7 | Identifying the Bottom Lines
| 8 | Case Study
| 9 | Micro-Enterprise Development
| 10 | Writing a BAM Plan
Assessment

Assessment Task #1 – Major Assignment (Relates to Outcomes 1-5)

This assignment is made up of three parts:

Part 1
a. Outline the concept of worldview.

b. Compare and contrast the Christian worldview with two competing worldviews.

Part 2
Choose a for-profit or not-for-profit organisation with which you are familiar and analyse how the worldview of a senior manager relationships between the organisation and two of its key stakeholders (such as employees, volunteers, board members, customers/clients, donors, and regulators).

Part 3
a. Describe a ‘real life’ situation in which your ethics were challenged.

b. Reflect on your feelings and behaviour in the situation and its outcome.

c. Analyse how your worldview affected your feelings and behavior.

d. Discuss how this situation affected your worldview.

Weighting: 30%  
Length: 2500 words
Due Date: Week 5

Assessment Task #2 – Choice of Tasks (Relates to Outcomes 1-5)

Option A
Select one paper from a journal that is listed in the journal references below. Critique the paper from the perspective of the Christian worldview and one competing worldview (other than the two competing worldviews chosen in Assessment Task #1).

Option B
Select one of the following books from the list of recommended readings below: Chewning, Eby & Roels; Gill; Pollard; Rush; Zigar.

a. Discuss the main theme or themes of the book you have selected.

b. Analyse how managers might give effect to the main theme or themes in both strategic and operational contexts. (Students must answer this part of the assignment in the first person.)

Weighting: 35%  
Length: 2500 words
Due Date: Week 9

Assessment Task #3 – Case Study (Relates to Outcomes 1-5)

The Unit Coordinator will provide you with a case study from the Harvard Business Review.

a. Develop a response to the case study (for exemplars, see the expert advice by ‘commentators’ provided with the case study) response should draw on your understanding of Christian thinking in management and may be supplemented by your personal observations and experience.

b. Select one of the ‘commentators’ and critique his or her advice. In your critique you must identify (with justification) the world in your opinion, has influenced the ‘commentator’s advice.

Weighting: 35%  
Length: 2500 words
Due Date: Week 14

Academic & General Resource Requirements

Bakke, DW 2005, Joy at Work: A revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job. PVG, Seattle, WA.


Journals
Journal of Business Ethics [ISSN 0167-4544]
Research in Ethical Issues in Organisations [ISSN 1529-2096]
Business & Professional Ethics Journal [ISSN 0277-2027]

Websites
Christianity 9 to 5, http://www.epiphanyresources.com/9to5/
SCRUPLES, http://www.scruples.net/

Unit Summary
This unit develops the Christian philosophical foundations underlying the Management courses offered by Christian Heritage College. It introduces students to critical appraisal of worldviews and to consideration of the implications a Christian worldview for management, ethical decision-making, and interpersonal relationships in commercial and not-for-profit organisations in contemporary Australian business.