

COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY NAME: Kenneth M. Diable, PhD

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE NUMBER: RS 308.DCA2 **COURSE TITLE:** Politics and Christianity

TERM: Fall 2008 **COURSE TIME:** Wednesday Evenings—6:00-10:00 pm—10/1-10/29

ROOM: TBA **COURSE CREDITS:** 3 credit hrs.--classroom

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Policy on Academic Honesty and Integrity in the College Catalog, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the test or assignment. Instructors will further determine appropriate action in response to the violation of academic integrity.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability which many require special consideration, you should notify the professor. This should be accomplished no later than the second class meeting. If you should need accommodations for successful participation in class activities, you should offer information in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs which includes suggestions for assistance in participating in and completing class assignments. It is not necessary to disclose the nature of your disability.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

The student will develop an understanding of the Christian Church's history from its inception to the present especially in relationship to the so-called Holy Roman Empire and its present associations with both secular and religious states world wide.

The student will develop a basic knowledge of the American system of 'Separation of Church and State' and the attacks upon it by both the political left and political right.

The student will develop a working knowledge of the means by which the Church and State can work in the same arena—the world without co-opting either system.

The student will develop and articulate arguments for and against major political issues in America today using models of Church State relationships that are Biblically based and Theologically sound.

The Student will learn by experience in discussion and debate what it means to be both Christian and citizen of the world.

GRADING SYSTEM

3.50 to 4.0+ equals **A**
3.25 to 3.49 equals **B+**
3.00 to 3.24 equals **B**
2.50 to 2.99 equals **C+**
2.00 to 2.49 equals **C**
1.01 to 1.99 equals **D**
1.00 or less equals **F**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The student will read the assigned pages in the textbook or articles for discussion on the designated day for discussion.

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE ENTERED INTO THE DAILY DISCUSSION IN CLASS.

THE STUDENT WILL ATTEND CLASS REGULARLY—25 % OF THE GRADE WILL DEPEND UPON ATTENDANCE. GRADING WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

0 classes missed without excuse—4.0
1 classes missed without excuse—2.0
2 classes missed without excuse—0

THE STUDENT WILL HAND IN 5 QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION ON *Biblical Amnesia*—due at the beginning of Class 10/08. This will be considered 25 % of the student's grade.

THE STUDENT WILL COMPLETE AN 6-8 PAGE PAPER ON SOME ASPECT OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS—50 % OF THE GRADE.

COURSE SCHEDULE—required readings plus issues of politics Christianity give in class

10/01 Introductory;

10/08 Gustafson, *Biblical Amnesia*

10/15 Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus*, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11

10/22 Hot button issues to be decided on 10/08

10/29 Hot button issues to be decided on 10/08

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Gustafson, Scott. *Biblical Amnesia*. Conshohocken: Infinity Publishing Company, 2004.

Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1994 [1972].

A Bible

AUXILIARY TEXTS

Augustine, *The City of God* (various translations).

Barnet, Richard, J. *Roots of War*. New York: Atheneum, 1972.

Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckman. *The social Construction of Reality*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967.

Berger, Peter. *A Rumor of Angels*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1969.

Bettsworth, Roger G. *Social Ethics an Examination of American Moral Traditions*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.

Challenge of Peace, The God's Promise and Our Response, The (A Pastoral Letter on War and Peace—The National Conference of Catholic Bishops). Washington D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1983.

Coleman, John A., ed. *One Hundred Years of Catholic Social Thought: Celebration and Challenge*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1991.

Cone, James H. *God of the Oppressed*. Revised Edition. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1997.

Coward, Harold, ed. *Population, Consumption, and the Environment: Religious and Secular Responses*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1995.

Dark David. *The Gospel According to America*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox press, 2005.

Drinan, Robert F. *The Cry of the Oppressed*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.

Dwyer, Judith A., ed. *The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1994.

Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993.

Eisler, Raine. *The Chalice & The Blade*. San Francisco: HarperSanfrancisco, 1987.

Ferm, Deane William, ed. *Third World Liberation Theologies A Reader*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1986.

Glendon, Mary Ann. *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. New York: Random House, 2001.

Haughey, John C., ed. *The Faith that Does Justice: Examining the Christian Sources for Social Change*. New York: Paulist Press, 1977.

- Heinecken, Martin. *Christian Teachings*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1967.
- Hintz, Sandy. *Peace Talk*. Hales Corners: SCJ Office of Justice and Peace, Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers, 1983.
- Henriot, Peter J., Edward P. DeBerri and Michael J. Schultheis. *Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1985.
- Hanigan, James P. *As I Have Loved You The Challenge of Christian Ethics*. New York and Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1986.
- John Paul II, Pope. *On Human Work (Laborem Exercens)*. Boston: Daughters of St. Paul, 1981.
- Kozol, Jonathan. *Rachel and Her Children Homeless Families in America*. New York: Ballentine Books, 1988.
- Lauren, Paul Gordon. *The Evolution of International Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998.
- Leiden, Carl and Karl M. Schmitt. *The Politics of Violence: Revolution in the Modern World*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1968.
- Lens, Sidney. *Poverty: America's Enduring Paradox*. Updated Edition. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1971.
- Maguire, Daniel C. and Larry L. Rasmussen. *Ethics for a Small Planet*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998.
- National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions—Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops." Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1998.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper & Row, 1951.
- O'Brien, David J. and Thomas A. Shannon, eds. *Catholic Social Teaching: The Documentary Heritage*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1992.
- Pawlikowski, John T., O.S.M. and Donald Senior, C.P., eds. *Biblical and Theological reflections on the Challenge of Peace*. THEOLOGY AND LIFE, Vol. 10. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1984.
- Phan, Peter C., ed. *Social Thought: Messages of the Fathers of the Church*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.

Prejean, Helen. *Dead man Walking: An Eye Witness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*. New York: Random House 1993.

Stackhouse, Max L. *Creeds, Society, and Human Rights Study in Three Cultures*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Company, 1984.

Wallis, Jim, *God's Politics A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.

NOVELS

Quinn, Daniel. *Ishmael*. New York: Bantam/Turner Books, 1995.

_____. *The Story of B*. New York: Bantam Books, 1997.

_____. *My Ishmael*. New York: Bantam Books, 1997.