MIN4350sj/5350sj - Ministry, Law and Social Justice In a Pluralistic Culture

Monday-Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m. Jim Reynolds-jimranddonnar@aol.com
Session 1-July 6-10 2120 Hollow Hills
Session 2-July 13-17 Fort Worth, Texas, 76120
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Purpose: Explore the call to pastor, teach and preach within a secularized, pluralistic culture that considers Christian faith a private opinion and not a public truth. The course will explore preaching, teaching and pastoring in the church a countercultural discipleship lived out in the public square. Highly politicized public policy issues including but not limited to homosexual marriage, abortion, immigration, health care and creation care will be discussed as biblical, spiritual, ethical, justice and pastoral issues. Developing a faithful methodology will be emphasized.

Texts for the course:
Jim Reynolds. Beyond the Pulpit. 2015.

Additional Readings:
Dennis P. Hollinger, Choosing the Good, Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2002

Objectives:
1. The student explores the unique dimensions of scripture and the Christian worldview for the public square
2. The student becomes more informed as to relevant historical and social contexts as well as current specific issues.
3. The student is aware of several perspectives regarding these issues from within the Christian tradition.
4. The student envisions ways of addressing important social justice issues within today’s local church from a theological, pastoral and public policy perspective.

Graduate Course Requirements:
1. Attendance and participation in class will be 20% of class grade.
2. Written reviews of and interaction with the basic arguments made in each of the reading assignments - Sider, Camp, Harper and Innes, and Reynolds, Keller, and Hollinger. Written
assignments for first four days will be due on July 6. Thereafter, the written assignments will be due on the day they are scheduled for class discussion. The written assignments for readings of 20 pages or less should be 2 pages. Written assignments for all other reading should be 4 pages per reading. Every student, graduate and undergraduate, is to have read the professors lecture notes for each session before coming to class. No written review is required of the professors lecture notes. No written assignments will be due on July 16 or 17. 50% of class grade.

3. Take home, open book final-due to instructor by on or before 5 p.m.—July 24. 30% of grade.

Undergraduate Course Requirements:

Same assignments as listed above, save and except for the following:

- *Generous Justice* will not be required reading. No written review will be required.
- *Choosing the Good* will not be required reading. No written review will be required.
- I will reduce the number of questions on the final exam by 25 percent.
- All students bring your Bible and the books by Sider, Camp, Harper and Innes, and Reynolds to class every day.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND COURSE CLASS LECTURES:

(Below are the pages to read for each class period and the subject of the lecture-discussion for the day. Additionally, the professor will provide on line lecture notes for the course. Dawn Bond will email you the on-line lecture notes no later than June 29, one week before class is to begin July 6. If you are not to be on-line then make a hard copy of the notes for class and bring the notes to class. Always bring your computers to class and any hard copies of additional notes to be read in class.)

July 6- Session 1, 5:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. Lecture and discussion

1. Introduction of class participants and subject matter of class.
2. Disciple or lay liberal? Contemporary cultural and political context.
3. Normative framework: Triune God—Jesus as Lord- Story-Kingdom-Church, Calling, worship, “Lord’s work,” “ministry,” “clericalism, etc.
4. Preaching, teaching, coming alongside? Prophetic, pastoral discipling in the gathered local church. The identity of shepherds. The sacramental unity-- the Lord’s Supper. Nurture and release of entire church into maturity- “ministry.” The Hearers before us now; their cultures and subcultures. Prophesying and embodying through the seasons of a local church within the national culture.
5. *Beyond The Pulpit*, pages 6-27
6. *Beyond The Pulpit*, pages 105-158, and 165-211
7. Read professors session 1 notes on line.

July 7- Session 2, 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Lecture and discussion

1. Complete session 1 lecture.
3. Sources of authority in today’s church- Jesus as Lord, Spirit, Church, Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason
4. Knowledge, virtues and community necessary to make ethical judgments
5. Empirical judgments in ethical decision making.
6. The components of political decisions: normative framework, study of society and the world, political philosophy, detailed social analysis on specific issues
7. Historical evangelical political engagement
8. Read professors notes on session 2 on line
10. *Left Right and Christ*, pages 21-42
12. Beyond the Pulpit, pages 42-70
13. Read professors session 2 notes on line

**July 8—Session 3, 5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and discussion**

1. Church-State relations since apostolic era
3. Constitutional law in American history and culture, 1791 to 2015
4. Christ, church and culture
5. Pluralism and Christian ethics: privatization, theocracy, civil religion, Christian influence
7. *Just Politics*, pages 101-115,
8. *Just Politics*, pages 141-156
10. Beyond The Pulpit, pages 71-103
11. Read professor’s session 3 notes on line.

**July 9—Session 4, 5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and discussion**

1. Theories of state and government.
2. Civil speech
3. Justice
4. The poor
5. Left Right and Christ, pages 47-86
6. *Just Politics*, pages 55-75
7. *Just Politics*, pages 77-99
9. Read professor’s session 4 notes on line

**July 10, Session 5, 5:30p.m. - 9:30p.m. Lecture and Discussion**

1. Immigration.
3. Creational Care.
4. Left Right and Christ, pages 91-107
5. Left, right and Christ, pages 155-172
6. Left, right and Christ, pages 197-216
7. *Just Politics*, pages 171-179
8. Read professor’s session 5 notes on line
July 13, Session 6, 5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. Sanctity of human life - male and female - men, women and children
2. Sex and marriage
3. Abortion - biblically, pastorally, socially, constitutionality
4. Pro-life agenda? Or Choice agenda?
5. Homosexual marriage as biblical, pastoral, social, constitutional issue.
6. Just Politics, pages 117-139
7. Left Right and Christ, pages 111-129
8. Left Right and Christ, pages 133-152
9. Read professor’s session 6 notes on line

July 14, Session 7, 5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. War in the Christian tradition.
2. Islam and Christianity in historical perspective.
3. The middle east, Islam and terrorism in biblical, pastoral, and public policy perspective
4. Loving the enemy, overcoming fear, stereotyping, and judgmentalism.
6. Left Right and Christ, pages 175-194
7. Read professor’s session 7 notes on line.

July 15, Session 8, 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. Biblical interpretation, Jesus, Israel and Zion
2. Historical perspective – from 70 a.d. to 1948
3. Theological, pastoral and public policy issues - Israel and the Palestinians.
4. On-line notes on above referenced issues.
6. Read professor’s session 8 notes on line.

July 16, Session 9, 5:30p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. Sermons On Market Place And Social Justice Issues In A Pluralistic, Polarized Environment
2. Read professor’s session 9 notes on-line.

July 17, Session 10, 5:30p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. Sermons On Market Place and Social Justice Issues In a Pluralistic, Polarized Environment
2. Read professor’s session 10 notes on-line.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Resources
† Reynolds, Jim. Beyond The Pulpit. 2015.

Spirituality of Business

The Spirituality of Work

Calling-Vocation

Mission

Rest-Leisure
Spirituality


Literature


Culture


Civility


Immigration


The Poor


Health Care

Creation Care

Discipleship

Church

Social Justice and Biblical Faith
† Wilberforce, William, *Real Christianity*, abridged and edited by James M. Houston. Vancouver: Regent College

WOMEN
Foreign policy in Christian perspective


Eschatology


Pastoring


Families


Lawyers, the Law and the Kingdom

Forgiveness

† Volf, Miroslav, Exclusion and Embrace, Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
† ---. Free Of Charge, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Christian Faith and Politics

† Claiborne, Shane, Jesus For President, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.
Sexuality, gender, marriage, and abortion