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

Monday-Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Session 1-June 6-10
Session 2-June 13-17

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5:30-9:30 p.m.
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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 June 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 3 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. 50% of class grade.

3. Take home, open book final—due to instructor by on or before 5 p.m. —June 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 May 30, one week before class is to begin June 6. If you are not t
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. )

**June 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. Faith- Public or Private? Contemporary cultural and political context.
3. Lenses through which we see.
4. The components of political decisions: normative framework, study of society and the world,
   political philosophy, detailed social analysis on specific issues Empirical judgments in ethical
decision making.
5. Normative framework: Triune God—Jesus as Lord- Story-Kingdom-Church, Calling, worship,”
   Lord’s work,” “ministry, “ clericalism, etc.
6. *Beyond The Pulpit*, pages 3-30
7. Beyond The Pulpit, pages 139-165,
8. Beyond the Pulpit, pages 166-209
11. Read professors Day 1 notes on line.

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

1. Complete Day 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. Church-State relations since apostolic era
6. Just Politics, pages 141-156
7. Left Right and Christ, pages 21-42
8. Choosing the Good, pages 9-23
9. Choosing the Good, pages 174-186
10. Beyond the Pulpit, pages 50-76
11. Read professors Day 2 notes on line

June  8- Session 3, 5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and discussion

1. The Puritans and Theocracy
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
6. Human Rights and Right and Wrong
7. Just Politics, pages 101-115,
9. Beyond The Pulpit, pages 103-111
10. Read professor’s Day 3 notes on line.

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

1. Theories of state and government.
2. Nationalistic myths in America.
3. Godly, and Ungodly Speech
4. Left Right and Christ, pages 47-63
5. Just Politics, pages 55-75
6. Read professor’s Day 4 notes on line

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

1. Justice
2. The poor
3. Just Politics, pages 77-99
4. Generous Justice, pages 109-147
5. Left Right and Christ, pages 67-86
6. Beyond the Pulpit, pages 77-103
7. Read professor’s Day 5 notes on line

June 13, Session 6, 5:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. Immigration.
3. Creational Care.
4. Left right and Christ 91-107
5. Left, right and Christ, pages 155-172
6. Left, right and Christ, pages 197-216
June 14, Session 7, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Lecture and Discussion

1. Marriage
2. Sexuality
3. Marriage, sexuality and Homosexual marriage as cultural and public policy issues
4. Marriage, sexuality and Homosexual marriage as discipleship issues
5. Marriage, sexuality and Homosexual Marriage as pastoral issues
6. Beyond the Pulpit, pages 31-49
7. Just Politics, pages 129-139
8. Left Right and Christ, pages 133-152
9. Read Professors Day 6 notes on line.

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

1. Sanctity of human life: male and female, men, women and children
2. Abortion-public policy
3. Abortion-discipleship
4. Abortion-Pastoral issues
5. Pro-life agenda? Or Choice agenda?
6. Just Politics, pages 117-127
7. Left Right and Christ, pages 111-129
8. Read Professors Day 7 notes on line.

June 16, Session 9, 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.
5. Left Right and Christ, pages 175-194
7. Read professor’s Day 8 notes on line.

June 17, Session 10, 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.
5. Read professor’s Day 9 notes on line.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Resources


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


Christian Faith and Politics

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