

COURSE SYLLABUS

Religion 296 - Love, Justice, and Social Relations

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Course Description and Aims

This course examines theological and ethical aspects of Christian social responsibility. It examines the meaning and normative import of Christian faith for justice and love in relational spheres (e.g. politics, economics, marriage and family, gender relations). It also explores the ethical implications of central Christian doctrines (e.g. vocation, sin, grace, two kingdoms). Issues raised include civil disobedience, use of lethal force, distributive justice, love and self-sacrifice, and gender roles and equality.

Course Structure

- I. Foundational Issues in Christian Ethics
- II. War and Politics
- III. Work and Possessions
- IV. Marriage and Family
- V. Gender Relations

Course Texts

J.L. Allen, War: A Primer for Christians
Benedict XVI, Charity in Truth
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html
M. Luther, Luther's Works, vol. 45: Christian in Society
John Paul II, On The Dignity and Vocation of Women
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_15081988_mulieris-dignitatem_en.html
D. J. Schuurman, Vocation: Discerning our Callings in Life
L. B. Smedes, Mere Morality
W. Strunk and E.B. White, Jr., The Elements of Style
John Yoder, et alia, What Would You Do?
Institute for American Values, Why Marriage Matters, 3d Edition
http://www.breakingthespiralofsilence.com/downloads/why_marriage_matters.pdf
Handouts (packet purchased in the Bookstore)

Requirements - Omission of any one of these requirements constitutes grounds for failing this course.

Class Participation

4 Response Papers (2 due before the Midterm and 2 after it)
Midterm
Final Exam