

EXAMINES THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, THE RELEVANT BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ASSUMPTIONS THAT CHRISTIANITY BRINGS TO THE DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES, AND THE METHODS TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

GOAL: To critically examine some contemporary social issues from a Christian perspective. Using the biblical Jesus, whose persona and Spirit animate the Christian community, this course will seek to highlight critical values that undergird the social experiment named 'church'. With a view toward both mutual support and challenge, church & society will be examined and critiqued on the basis of theoretical and practical ownership of said critical values.

Objectives:

- 1) to articulate a norm for the humanum which does justice to the essence of human being, human relation, and human action in an ever changing space-time continuum
- 2) to consider select contemporary issues which link historical & contemporary church-society with a view toward discerning the integration or disintegration of core human values within variant worldviews
- 3) to ground both a personal & corporate program of moral vision and action within a framework and horizon of hope sufficient to meet the realization of critical human values within the conflictive reality that is the human condition
- 4) to contextualize these issues within a broad global dialogue of faith & culture, highlighting the perspectives of the Christian community consonant with and in contrast to other world institutions & organizations
- 5) to formulate an understanding of and response to contemporary personal and societal issues, with clear delineation of steps and resources that a Christian community must direct toward prophetic witness & social inspiration

Requirements:

- 1) presence and participation in all scheduled classes for this course
- 2) completion of all assignments/projects as given through the course
 - a) assigned readings in text
 - b) paper: select 2-3 sentences or passages from any source (literary or other), indicate why you selected them and show how they are relevant to ideas surveyed in this course [the 5 page typed paper is due at the time of the last class]
- 3) satisfactory completion of all examinations during the course

Recommendations:

- 1) notebook for recording information during class presentations and assigned readings
- 2) research & reading of extra materials relevant to the course
- 3) attentive and participative class presence to foster learning attitude and aptitude

Grading: 25% class presence & participation [Fort Shafter: Fridays/1730-2140]
25% course project: 5 page paper
25% mid-course exam
25% final exam

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS PRESENTATION/ASSIGNMENTS</u>
1.	7/10	<u>THE JESUS QUEST</u> <u>Jesus I: The Historical & The Real Jesus (the Man/the Message/the Mission)</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 5-Schillebeckx/Ch 13-Gutierrez/Ch 12-Metz/Handouts]
2.	7/17	<u>Jesus II: The Kingdom: Paradoxes & Values [Film]</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 15-Martin Luther King/Ch 20-Mohandas Gandhi]
3.	7/24	<u>Jesus III: Death+Resurrection: Norm for the Humanum/Hope for Salvation</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 10-Niebuhr/Ch 11-Murray/Handouts]
4.	7/31	<u>The God Problem: Atheism: Critique & Counter-Critique</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 8-Barth/Ch 9-Tillich/Handouts]
5.	8/7	<u>SCIENCE & RELIGION:</u> <u>Contemporary Worldview I: Non-theological Perspective</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 16-Whitehead/Handouts] * Mid-Course Exam
6.	8/14	<u>Contemporary Worldview II: Theological Proposal</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 18: Teilhard de Chardin/Handouts]
7.	8/21	<u>WORLD RELIGIONS [Film]</u> <u>Attitudes for A New Age & Common Quest for Salvation</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 1-Rahner/Ch 3-Congar/Ch 7-Kung/Handouts]
8.	8/28	<u>THE GOSPEL OF LIFE: ISSUES IN CHURCH & SOCIETY</u> I. <u>Patriarchy & Women</u> [Reading: Text: Ch 14-Ruether]
9.	9/4	II. <u>Peace/Justice/Bioethics</u> [Reading: Handouts]
10.	9/11	III. <u>Searching for Soul</u> [Reading: Handouts] * Course-End Exam

Class Meetings: Fridays/Ft. Shafter/1730-2140

Text: Contemporary Theologians by James Bacik

Teacher: Prof. David Anderson (926-5162)

SUGGESTED FILMS:

Jesus of Nazareth (Zeffereilli)
Gandhi
Gentleman's Agreement
The Mission
Shoes of the Fisherman

The Power of One
Romero
Schindler's List
Powder
Alive