

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CHRISTIANITY

Religion 200

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Summer Evening Session, 1998 Barber's Point

INSTRUCTOR: Achilles S.C. Gacis MA, M.Div.

Thursday Evenings 1730-2140

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OVERVIEW: This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to examine contemporary social issues which the Christian community encounters. The framework for ethical reflection that the student will develop will be based on relevant biblical and theological assumptions that Christianity brings to the debate on these social issues along with the methodologies that bring about social change within the context of the Christian community.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Moral Issues and Christian Response. Jersild and Johnson

CLASS PROJECTS:

1. **Maintain a journal** on any issue relevant to our coursework. The subject matter must be consistent throughout your compilations. A minimum of ten (10) entries are required. Paste article on facing page, then give your written personal reflections on the opposite page.
2. Each student is required to **give a class presentation** on contemporary social issue. The presentation should be ten (10) minutes in length with an *outline turned in prior to the presentation*. The presentation should include an ethical framework, the identification of the issue and how it relates to the Christian community, and possible solutions.
3. A final **major term paper** on a topic of interest to the student. The theme and subject matter will be the same as the verbal presentation and will be due on the last day of class. The length should be between fifteen (15) and twenty (20) pages. Follow the attached guidelines and your paper will be a success! Bring a large manila envelope, stamped and addressed for return of your paper.

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE: In addition to the textual topics covered we will discuss issues surrounding the **life ethic**: abortion, right to life, euthanasia, transplant/bioethics matters, human progression from birth to death and beyond; the **future**: expectations, inquiries, alternate societies, other cosmoses, altered states, channeling; the history of Christian response to plagues (**HIV/AIDS**), **racism** and other forms of blatant and latent elitism and superiority, prejudice, evil, crime, punishment, the homeless issue, the attraction of cultic and occultic worship, etc.....

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- July 09 INTRODUCTION/SYLLABUS/PAPER GUIDELINES
 (VIDEO: Night and Fog)
 THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO SOCIAL ISSUES.....pp.2-19
 (VIDEO: Heaven)
- 16 FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN MORAL RESPONSE....pp.20-37
 PERSPECTIVES ON SEXUALITY.....pp.40-59
 (VIDEO: Black Robe)
- 23 RELATIONSHIPS, MARRIAGE, AND THE FAMILY.....pp.60-73
 RACISM: THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE.....pp.76-101
 (VIDEO: Jungle Fever)
- 30 GUN CONTROL (VIDEO: Dialog)
 FEMINISM IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY.....pp.102-139
- Aug 06 CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.....pp.190-208
 (VIDEO: Recycling)
- 13 THE LURE OF CULTIC AND OCCULTIC PRACTICES
 (Presentation, VIDEO)
- 20 EUTHANASIA/SUICIDE.....pp.356-370
 (VIDEO: Whose Life is it Anyway?)
 (VIDEO: Whose Death is it Anyway?)
- 27 ***JOURNALS DUE*** and **JOURNAL PRESENTATIONS**
- Sept 03 **+PRESENTATIONS+** (OUTLINE TO INSTRUCTOR & SASE)
- 10 **+PRESENTATIONS+** (OUTLINE TO INSTRUCTOR & SASE)

NOTE: Due to the sensitive nature of the subjects studied and their impact on contemporary society, no tape recorders allowed and course content subject to change with ample notice given to student.

REL 200: Contemporary Issues in Christianity
FINAL PAPER GUIDELINE/EVALUATION SHEET (in add. to APA format)

INTRODUCTION

Clearly and concisely sets parameters of paper; provides necessary background and/or important operational definitions.

CONTENT

Appropriate to the assignment.

Discussion is sufficiently detailed and explanations are clear, showing an objective orientation towards the topic.

Quotes and paraphrases are well-chosen and relate well to the subject matter.

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

There is a clear development of the topic; the reader is not lost as to the direction and position of the paper.

Paragraphs and transitions are appropriate .

Concluding paragraphs tie the essay together.

GRAMMAR AND STYLE

Sentence style is clear and easy to read.

Grammar and spelling is correct.

Word usage is adequately mature and scholarly.

DOCUMENTATION OF SOURCES

Sufficient sources have been used to avoid a one-sided understanding.

Ample foot/endnotes are given, in order to direct the reader to the informational sources.

Bibliography is complete and adequate.