

My

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to examine some contemporary social issues from a Christian perspective. It will be based on relevant biblical and theological assumptions that Christianity brings to the debate on these issues, with a view toward social change within the context of the Christian community.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand ourselves and our world in interpreting our experiences and coping with the challenges of life.
2. To turn to the outstanding theologians and religious thinkers who can inspire us to cope with our own problems of today.
3. To discover and examine their key ideas and enduring insights which can direct personal growth and pastoral practice.
4. To develop a profound ethical sense in dealing with the contemporary questions which engage our attention.
5. To respond with intelligence and courage to inherently interesting religious concerns.
6. To work towards growing in our relationship with God, Christ, and the church.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

- Required: 1. Contemporary Theologians, James J. Bacik
2. Handouts on specific topics

Recommended:

1. Moral Issues and Christian Response, edited by Paul T. Jersild and Dale A. Johnson
2. A bible which includes both new and old testaments

REQUIREMENTS:

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| 1. Assigned readings and participation. | 25% |
| 2. Mid-term exam | 25% |
| 3. Paper | 25% |
| 4. Final exam | 25% |

CLASS DATE PRESENTATION/ASSIGNMENTS

1. 1/15 Course introduction, explanation of texts, handouts, and films
Film: Jesus of Nazareth, Part 1
Assign: Ch 5-Schillebeeckx, Ch 13-Gutierrez, Ch 12-Metz
2. 1/22 Discussion on readings
Topic: racism
Film: Jesus of Nazareth, Part 2
Assign: Ch 15-Martin Luther King, Ch 20-Mohandas Gandhi
3. 1/29 Discussion on readings
Topic: homosexuality
Film: Jesus of Nazareth, Part 3
Assign: Ch 10-Niebuhr, Ch 11-Murray
4. 2/05 Discussion on readings
Topic: Should drugs be legalized?
Film: Right Here, Right Now
Assign: Ch 8-Barth, Ch 9-Tillich
5. 2/12 Mid-term exam
Film: Schindler's List
Assign: Ch 16-Whitehead
6. 2/19 Discussion on readings
Topic: death penalty
Film: Dead Man Walking
Assign: Ch 18-Teilhard de Chardin
7. 2/26 Discussion on readings
Topic: abortion
Film
Assign: Ch 1-Rahner, Ch 3-Congar, Ch 7-Kung
8. 3/05 Discussion on readings
Topic: euthanasia/suicide
Film
Assign: Ch 14-Reuther
9. 3/12 Discussion on readings
Topic: bioethical issues
Film: The Mission
Handout
10. 3/19 Final exam
Paper (5 pages) on one of the discussion topics due.
Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so that the corrected paper along with the final course grade can be returned.