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IS 501 Christian Formation: Kingdom, Church, and World

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Warning! Preliminary Syllabus
Books will be as stated: Other Elements Subject to Change
Asbury Theological Seminary Spring 05

Course Name: IS501ExL Christian Formation: Kingdom, Church, and World

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ExL Contact Information:

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For **technical support, library research support, library loans, and ExL media** contact Information Commons:

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Accessing Information Commons Materials:

1. General Questions:

§ The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here:

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/hours.shtml>.

2. Materials Requests:

§ To search the library catalog for available materials, click here:

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/index.shtml>

§ ExL Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

§ ExL students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions:

§ ExL students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help choosing a paper topic, determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:

§ To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/index.shtml> and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (2000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

Windows and Icons:

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and the professor, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The IS501-X2-HM is for private correspondence between you and the professor. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. *Remember:* None of the conversations carried on in this location are ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, chapel services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio Player.

Introduction of the Course:

What is the mission of the church? Behind this question is a cluster of related questions, the most important focused on the nature of God's creative and redemptive purpose, its ongoing expression in the world, and its consummation in the eschaton. Participants in this course will explore how the church might discern, embrace, and participate in God's own mission.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate their understanding of the biblical metanarrative that comes to focus for us best in Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God;

2. Identify the particular contribution of the Wesleyan tradition to our understanding of this metanarrative;
3. Draw out major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative, especially as these are related to the nature and mission of the people of God;
4. Evaluate cultural products (e.g., literature, television, movies, advertisements, print media, music) in light of major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative;
5. Exercise criticism with respect to one's own cultural context and discernment with respect to the context of others vis-à-vis major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative;
6. Articulate the ecclesial and missional implications of this metanarrative – specifically for one's own context and generally for our shared global context; and
7. Exhibit a heightened sense of commitment to serving the kingdom of God in mission in the world.

Required Reading:

Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People*. InterVarsity Press, 1996.
 Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Abingdon
 McClaren, Brian D. *A New Kind of Christian*. Jossey-Bass, 2001.
 Snyder, Howard. *A Kingdom Manifesto*. Wipf and Stock, 1997 (This book is also available under the following title: *Kingdom, Church, World*. Same book, same author, just different title).
 Wright, N.T. *The Challenge of Jesus*. InterVarsity, 1999.

Required Media:

Each student in the class will be responsible for buying/renting the movie **Romero (Vidmark Entertainment 1989, PG-13, 105 min., with Raul Julia)** and have it ready for the week of Nov. 20, 2003.

Recommended Reading:

Clapp, Rodney. *Border Crossings*. Brazos Press
 Hauerwas, Stanley. *A Community of Character*. University of Notre Dame
 Newbigin, Leslie. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*.
 Eerdmans
 Stackhouse, Max. *The Church in a Global Era*. Eerdmans

Evaluation:

- **Active and Substantive Participation in On-Line Conferences. (30%)**
 Each student in the class will have an IS501 icon in their First Class e-mail, and each small group will have a team folder for their On-Line Conferences where you will find questions and other items for discussion and group interaction posted by the professor.

Some weeks the on-line conferences will occur *only* with your team members, some weeks with the all class members, and some weeks *in both places*.

On-line Conferences Guidelines:

1. Every week your team will discuss the questions posted within the team folder, please follow instructions carefully.
2. This class feature calls for good “e-manners.” Please limit each posting to 50 words or less [unless instructed to do otherwise]. Remember that your team members do not benefit from hearing your tone of voice or seeing your body language, ***so be careful how you put things in writing!*** You may be perceived as shouting, when you only meant to add an emphasis.
3. The professor will monitor and grade the team interaction and discussion assignments that occur via e-conference.

Some examples of evaluative criteria may include:

1. Did you give a succinct, understandable statement that reflected your understanding of the course material and its relationship to the question posed?
2. Did you reflect critically on the interface between course content and personal experience?
3. Did you post your own answers/responses in a timely way, so as to promote conversation among the members of your team?
4. How effective were you in generating ideas/proposals for group interaction?
5. How effective were you in your engagement with the ideas/proposals generated by others on your Team?
6. Did you respond to your Teammates as per the instructions for the exercise?
Did you attend to issues of form and style appropriate to academic writing?

• **Small Groups: 5%**

The first week of class you will be assigned to a small group of 4-6 persons, same group people as above, but in a different folder. This small group (folder) is intended to provide A place for students to share with team members, their personal concerns, spiritual journeys, request prayer, offer advise, develop friendships. This small group will have a degree of independence and will be much less monitored by the instructor in order to allow for more personal sharing. Also for this reason, a small group leader should be selected. The small group leader at the end of the semester will write a “participation” report in which s/he will describe the participation of each small group.

• **Kingdom Project (15 %)**

Each student in is required to spend 12 hours of personal work/involvement in a “Kingdom Project.” A Kingdom Project will be defined as involvement in a group ministry of some kind that touches the lives of those outside of the church with the presence of the Kingdom of God. Possibilities for the Kingdom Project may include a ministry within which a student is already participating. In the “Kingdom Project” is where the student will apply some of the key theological concepts of the class in a tangible/concrete way, thus the student is expected to actively participate in this project by serving in a church, para-church, social service agency, or any other

ministry/organization in which the student would be able to serve others and his/her community. Acceptable places where one may serve are: Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Shelter, etc. After completion of the Kingdom Project, each student will share his/her experience by writing an integrative paper, in which the student will describe his/her participation in the project *and* will integrate class readings and discussions as the theological foundations for his/her work. This reflection paper is due on: **Thursday, May, 5 2004**. The goal of the paper is to integrate experiences received through the kingdom project with the reading and discussion done for this class. Please write no less than three and no more than five pages. The reflection must be typed with 12 point font, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing.

- **Mid-Term:** Open-book exam; Exam will be given on March 17 and will be due on March 31 (**25%**)
- **Final-Exam:** Due May 19 (**25 %**) (Details will be specified and given several weeks before the final)

Grade Range: Work for IS501 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

<i>A = 95-100% Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>	<i>D+ = 67-69% Minimal work</i>
<i>A- = 90-94% Far above average, fine work</i>	<i>D = 63-66% barely acceptable</i>
<i>B+ = 87-89% Above average for graduate work</i>	<i>D- = 60-62% for specific assignment</i>
<i>B = 83-86% Very good, average for graduate work</i>	<i>F = 59% or below Failure.</i>
<i>B- = 80-82% Slightly below average for graduate work</i>	
<i>C+ = 77-79% Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>	
<i>C = 73-76% Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>	
<i>C- = 70-72% Meets requirements, but serious gaps</i>	

Incomplete Work: “A grade of ‘I’ denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an *unavoidable emergency*, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of the course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as ‘F.’ ” From ATS 2001-03 Catalog p. 29 (emphasis added)

Late Assignments: If an assignment is turn in late it will be graded but no feedback will be provided and grade reduction will be in proportion to the lateness of the work and to reason for not turning the assignment on time.

Expectations: Each student will receive feedback and evaluation of his/her work one week after the due date for each assignment *only* if the assignment was turn in on time. If the assignment was turn in late, a grade will be given at a later time but no feedback. In this class, all weekly assignments will be due on Wednesdays at noon, to allow classmates to respond/participate to on-line discussions/questions, then on Thursdays, from 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm ET, assignments will be evaluated and feedback will be provided to each student and new assignments will be posted on this day (Thursday). Special assignments such as Mid-Term, reflection papers, etc., will be returned to students one week after they were received (if they were turned in on time) with feedback and evaluation.

Course Schedule:

Introduction

Week 1 – Feb. 10-17 Introductions and Organization of the Course

- Introductions and General Overview
 - Course Objectives
 - Course Procedures
 - Small Groups: Selection, Process, Leadership, and Expectations
 - Conferences: Selection, Process and Expectations
- Required Reading for next week: Clapp, pp. 9-75; Wright, pp. 13-33

Module One: Kingdom – Living the Biblical Story

Module Objectives

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the importance of “story;”
2. Discern how cultural products participate in inviting us into certain stories;
3. Articulate the basis for the unity of Scripture in the overarching plan of God, from Creation to New Creation;
4. Articulate the hermeneutical importance of the incarnation for understanding the biblical story;
5. Articulate how Wesley’s understanding of the soteriological journey serves as a hermeneutical compass for reading the biblical story;

Week 2 – Feb. 17-24 Narrative, Post Modernism, and the Biblical Story

Required Reading for next week: Wright, pp. 34-73; Snyder, pp. 9-76

Week 3 – Feb. 24 – March 3 Old Testament

Required Reading for next week: Wright, pp. 74-149

Week 4 – March 3 - 10 New Testament

Required Reading for next week: Wright, pp. 150-197; Clapp, pp. 76-93.

Week 5 – March 10 - 17 Thematic integration of Scripture and Wesley's Order of Salvation

Required Reading for next week: McLaren, pp. 1-53; Clapp, pp. 94-125.

Assignment: Take Home Exam

Module Two: Kingdom and Church

Particular Objectives

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

1. Enumerate significant ways in which the ongoing life of the people of God participates in and extends the biblical story;
2. Articulate how kingdom-living relates to a community of believers;
3. Articulate an ecclesiology oriented around participation in the kingdom;

Articulate basic forms of ecclesial practice (e.g., hospitality, mission) that are a necessary outgrowth of an ecclesial commitment to performing the kingdom.

Week 6* – March 17 - 31 Who are the People of God?

Required Reading for next week: McClaren, pp. 54-93; Clapp, pp. 140-157.

***Please note that this week, includes “two weeks” due to the Spring reading week—March 21-25.**

Assignment: Mid-Term Exam Due today, March 31

Week 7 – March 31 – April 7 The People of God Through History

Required Reading for next week: Clapp 158-171; McLaren, pp. 94-165

Week 8 – April 7 - 14 The People of God in Contemporary Context

Required Reading for next week: Clapp, pp. 172-212; Snyder, pp. 79-120

Module Three: Kingdom, Church, and World

Particular Objectives

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the significance of the kingdom in terms of its cosmological and eschatological significance (rather than in individual and subjective terms);
2. Demonstrate that they have begun the process of thinking theologically – i.e., situating life within the interpretive and critical horizons of a theological vision of the purpose of God for creation that comes into focus best in Jesus’ proclamation of the kingdom;
3. Draw out inferences of this view of the kingdom with respect to a range of social-ethical issues (e.g., racial reconciliation, environmental ethics, gender issues);

Demonstrate the importance of understanding one’s world in performing the kingdom;

Week 9 – April 14 - 21 Listening to the World

Required Reading for next week: Clapp, pp. 126-139; Hauerwas & Willimon, pp. 1-48

Week 10— April 21 - 28 Acting in the World

Required Reading for next week: Hauerwas & Willimon, pp. 49-111

Week 11 – April 28 – May 5 Speaking to the World: Witness & Worship

Required Reading for next week: Hauerwas & Willimon , pp. 112-172

Week 12 – May 5 – May 12 Watch Movie *Romero*

Required Reading for next week: NO Reading Required for next week.

Week 14 – May 12- 19 Thy Kingdom Come

Reading: Prepare for Final Exam

Week 15 — May 19 Final Exam Due today