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CS 700 Servant as Liberator

Christine Pohl

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CS 700: Servant as Liberator
Asbury Theological Seminary
Spring 2001

SECTION A: T & Th 9:30 - 10:45 am Stanger Hall 408
Christine Pohl, Ph.D.
Office Location: McPheeters Center 308
Office Phone: 858-2284 Home Phone 858-8136
Office Hours: T & Th 1:00 - 2:00 & 4:00 - 5:00 pm & by appointment

SECTION B: T 6:15 – 9:00 pm Missions (Administration Bldg) 202
James R. Thobaben, Ph.D.
Office Location: McPheeters Center 307
Office Phone: 858-2369 Home Phone 858-8058
Office Hours: T & W 1:00 - 3:00 & by appointment

CS 700 is also taught by Prof. Hugo Magallanes on the Orlando Campus.

Purpose:
To prepare students for ministry by training them to analyze and address social problems from a Christian perspective. To develop ministers who are responsive to the needs, contexts, and insights of various marginalized groups in society and in the church. To enable ministers to equip their congregations for understanding moral responsibility and for practicing social ministry. To assist in training ministers who will draw all persons, including those who are excluded by society, into the care and guidance of the community of faith under the Lordship of Christ.

Objectives:
To provide a Biblical basis for social concern, care, and responsibility.
To develop historical and contemporary Christian interpretations of social issues.
To teach the vocabulary of ethical analysis.
To develop approaches to social analysis.
To examine mechanisms for responding to social concerns at local, national, and international levels as an individual and as a Christian community.
To consider how responses to social problems shape congregational life.

Texts:
Dayton, Donald W., Discovering an Evangelical Heritage (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988).
Packet (readings are not in order in packet)

Evaluation:
20% Required Historical Paper: 4 - 5 page limit
15% Mid-Term Examination (40 minutes; in class)
50% Research Paper: 12-15 page limit
15% Final Examination (40 minutes; at assigned final exam time)
Debit: For inadequate class participation and/or late or incomplete reading.

PAPERS ARE DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS; LATENESS WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT DEDUCTION

Grade Range: Work for CS 700 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.
A = Unusually high quality, exceptional work
A- = Far above average, fine work
B+ = Above average for graduate work
B = Very good, but average for graduate work
B- = Slightly below average for graduate work
C+ = Meets requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies for graduate work
C = Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work
C- = Meets requirements, but with serious gaps for graduate work
D+ =
D = Minimal work, barely acceptable for specific assignment
D- =
F = Failure; unacceptable work
Historical Paper: Wesley’s theological commitments shaped his understanding of social service and action. Consider social reform in light of Wesleyan ecclesiology (especially as component of doctrine of sanctification); discuss why this doctrine, in particular, was important. Show how it could help to shape an adequate Christian response to a contemporary social problem DUE 2/20/2001.

Mid-Term Examination: 40 minute exam oriented toward objective knowledge of ethical theory, including significant historical arguments. IN CLASS: 3/27/2001

Research Paper: Students may choose a specific area to study in greater depth. Possible topic areas include: poverty, child or spouse abuse, AIDS, abortion, homelessness, mental retardation, substance abuse, racial discrimination, environmental issues, public education. Topics should be chosen early in the semester so that students can conduct research and reflect upon interweaving themes. The paper must reflect an approach to the problem that includes a specifically church-centered response. The body or notes of the paper should reflect a working knowledge of resources currently available in the community and church, as well as alternatives and improvements you might prefer. Consult with the professor in choosing your topic. DUE 4/24/2001.

Final Examination: 40 minute examination oriented toward objective knowledge of ethical responses in various societal spheres, including significant historical arguments. IN CLASS: A- Wednesday 5/16/2001 @ 1:00 pm; B- Tuesday 5/15/2001 @ 6:15 pm.

Participation: Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Reading Records will be collected on the last day of class. Failure to complete readings on time may result in a lowering of the final grade, as will poor attendance for class. Attendance will be taken. The deduction for low participation and/or late or incomplete reading of assigned material will be up to 10% against the final grade (a full letter grade reduction).

Written Work: All written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Follow page limit requirements. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse. Papers are due in class on assigned date.

All written work must use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (male and female). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision. For more information on this topic see ‘Suggestions for Using Inclusive Language’, available in the Dean of Student’s Office.

Week 1 (2/6) Overview of course & introduction to terms, Biblical themes, and tools of social analysis

Week 2 (2/13) Continue ‘terms, themes, and tools’
Assigned Scriptures
Plantinga, Cornelius "Spiritual Hygiene and Corruption" Not the Way It's Supposed To Be
Wheeler, Sondra Ely "A Constructive Proposal" Wealth as Peril and Obligation

Week 3 (2/20) Historical foundations for contemporary Christian social ethics
Marquardt, entire text

HISTORICAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS –Tuesday 2/20.

Week 4 (2/27) Continue ‘historical foundations’
Dayton, entire text

Week 5 (3/6) Church as a Community of Reconciliation
Gutierrez, Gustavo, “Introduction to Rev. Ed.,” A Theology of Liberation (rev.)
Week 6 (3/13) Church as a Community of Reconciliation (continued)

Week 7 (3/20)  Reconciliation: Gender Relations

Week 8 (3/27) Reconciliation: Race/ Ethnic Group Relations
Douglass, Frederick "Appendix," Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
* Volf, Miroslav "Exclusion and Embrace: Theological Reflection in the Wake of 'Ethnic Cleansing'" in Dyrness, William A. Emerging Voices in Global Christian Theology

MID-TERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS –Tuesday 3/27.

Week 9 (4/3)  Christians and the Church in the Political Sphere

SPRING READING WEEK

Week 10 (4/17)  Christians and the Church in the Economic Sphere
Wesley, John, “Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions”  
The Works of the Rev. John Wesley (ed. Thomas Jackson)  
(London: John Mason, 1830)
Arnold, Henri, “Community of Goods -- Is It Biblical?”  
The Plough March 1984.
(Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming Revell Co., 1984, 1990)
National Conference of Catholic Bishops “A Pastoral Message: Economic Justice for All” & “Church and Future of U.S. Economy”  

Week 11 (4/24) **Continue 'economic sphere'**

RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS – Tuesday 4/24

Week 12 (5/1) **Christians and the Church in the Familial Sphere**
Meilander, Gilbert, “The Eclipse of Fatherhood” First Things (June/July 1995)
Pipher, Mary "Protecting Families -- Houses with Walls" The Shelter of Each Other
Mathews-Green, Frederica "Subversive Civility" Park Ridge Center Bulletin May/June 1999
** Hauerwas, Stanley, Abortion Theologically Understood

** Christians and the Church in the Natural Sphere
"An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of the Creation"

Week 13 (5/8) **Health Care: The Confusion of Overlapping Spheres**

Readings marked with * are out of order in packet.
Readings marked with ** are not in packet, but are on reserve.

FINAL:
Section A: Wednesday 5/16/2001 @ 1:00 pm
Section B: Tuesday 5/15/2001 @ 6:15 pm.