CS 700 Servant as Liberator

Hugo Magallanes
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 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 introduce various historical and contemporary Christian interpretations of social issues.
To teach the vocabulary of ethical analysis.
To introduce approaches to social analysis.
To examine mechanism 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.

Required Texts:
CS 700 Servant as Liberator Reading Packet (Readings may NOT be in order).
See next page for recommended books.

Evaluation:
20% Historical Paper: 4-5 limit (without counting page(s) for endnotes).
15% Mid-Term Examination (in class)
50% Research Paper: 12-15 page limit (without counting page(s) for endnotes).
15% Final Examination (at assigned final exam time)
Debit: For inadequate class participation and/or late or incomplete reading.

Grade Range: Work for CS 700 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.
A = 93-100% Unusually high quality, exceptional work
A- = 88-90% Far above average, fine work
B+= 84-87% Above average for graduate work
B = 81-83% Very good, average for graduate work
B- = 78-80% Slightly below average for graduate work
C+ = 74-77% Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work
C = 71-73% Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work
C- = 68-70% Meets requirements, but serious gaps
Requirements:

Historical Paper: Wesley’s theological commitments shaped his understanding of social service and action. Consider social reform in light of Wesleyan ecclesiology and understanding of sanctification; discuss why these doctrines, in particular, were important. Show how they would help to shape an adequate Christian response to a contemporary social problem. Due ?/?

Mid-Term Examination: 40 minute exam oriented toward objective knowledge of ethical theory, including significant historical arguments. In class ?/?

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, welfare reform, illegal immigration, 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 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 ?/?

Final Examination: The one-hour exam will be oriented toward objective knowledge. TBA.

Participation: Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Reading records will be collected on the last day of the class. Failure to complete readings on time may result in 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 (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. Please follow page limit requirements. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with 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 (female and male). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision. For more information on this topic see “Suggestions for Using Inclusive Language” available at the Dean’s office. For style and form of BOTH written papers, use and follow:

(Use Chicago Style, if this source is selected)

Strongly recommended as a tool for research:

*Recommended Texts Required and Recommended texts will be on reserve at the library
Session 1
Introduction: Biblical and Historical Foundations of Christian Social Ethics

Introductions, expectations, and interests. Introduction to terms, Biblical themes, and tools of social analysis.
Required Readings: Assigned Scriptures (See list attached to syllabus)
   Platinga, Cornelius “Spiritual Hygiene and Corruption” Not the Way It’s Supposed To Be
   Wheeler, Sondra Ely “A Constructive Proposal” Wealth as Peril and Obligation

Historical foundations for contemporary Christian social ethics
Required Readings: Marquardt, entire text.

Conclusion “historical foundations”
Required Reading: Dayton, entire text.

Session 2
The Church as a Moral Community

The Church as a Community of Reconciliation
   Barmen Declaration [Not in packet, ON RESERVE]

Reconciliation: Gender Relations

(More required readings next page)
Reconciliation: Race Relations
Douglass, Frederick “Appendix” Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.

Session 3
Christian Participation in the Spheres of the Social Life

Christians and the Church in the Political Sphere

Christians and the Church in the Economic Sphere
Session 4

**Christians and the Church in the Familial Sphere**
Pipher, Mary. “Protecting Families--House With Walls” *The Shelter of Each Other*.

**Abortion**
Hauerwas, Stanley. *Abortion Theologically Understood*. [Not in reading packet, on RESERVE at the library]

Session 5

**Christians and the Church in the Cultural (Popular) Sphere.**

**Health Care: The Confusion of Overlapping Spheres**
Final Exam TBA and Reading Record Due Today!