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CS 624 The Poor In Wesley's Social Ethics

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-FLORIDA
SUMMER 2001 (TENTATIVE)
CS 624: THE POOR IN WESLEY'S SOCIAL ETHICS

3 HRS. CREDIT

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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Assistant Professor Church in Society

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Office Hours: Before and after class & by appointment

PURPOSE:

To develop ministers who are responsive to the needs of the poor and other marginalized groups in society and church. To provide Wesleyan foundations, ethical and theological, to equip ministers and their congregations for understanding their moral responsibility toward the poor and the oppressed. To assist in developing practical applications and tentative responses to poverty related issues.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- develop a Wesleyan identity of solidarity with the poor.
- explain Wesley's commitment to serve the poor in the light of his writings, life, and ministry.
- integrate Wesley's commitments to our present reality.
- develop tentative responses to poverty related issues from a Wesleyan perspective.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hynson, Leon O. *To Reform the Nation: Theological Foundations of Wesley's Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Dunning, H. Ray. *Reflecting the Divine Image: Christian Ethics in Wesleyan Perspective*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Jennings, Theodore W. Jr. *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1990.

MacArthur, Kathleen Walker. *The Economic Ethics of John Wesley*. New York: Abingdon, 1936.

Meeks, Douglas M., ed. *The Portion of the Poor: Good News to the Poor in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1995.

Runyon, Theodore., ed. *Sanctification and Liberation: Liberation Theologies in Light of the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981.

Sherwin, Oscar. *John Wesley: Friend of People*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1961.

Wesley, John. "XXVIII Sermon on the Mount" "XXXVIII A Caution Against Bigotry" "XXXIX Catholic Spirit" "XLVIII Self-Denial" "L The Use of Money" "LI The Good Steward" "LXXIV Of the Church" "LXXXVII The Danger of Riches" "XCI On Charity" "XCVIII On Visiting the Sick" "CVIII On Riches" "CXII The Rich Man and Lazarus" "CXXVI On the Danger of Increasing Riches" "CXXXIX On Love" "Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions" "Thoughts upon Slavery" in *The Works of John Wesley*. Vols. 5,6, 7,11. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998

EVALUATION:

20% "Foundations" Paper: 5-6 pages limit (without counting page(s) for endnotes).

30% “Application” Paper: 5-6 pages limit (without counting page(s) for endnotes).

50% Final Examination (Take Home Exam)

Debit: For inadequate class participation and/or late or incomplete reading.

Grade Range: Work for this class will be evaluated according to ATS standards (see catalog).

A = 4.00 93-100% Exceptional Work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course.

A- = 3.70 88-90%

B+ = 3.30 84-87%

B = 3.00 81-83% Good : substantial achievement of course objectives.

B- = 2.70 78-80%

C+ = 2.30 74-77%

C = 2.00 71-73% Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives.

C- = 1.70 68-70%

D+ = 1.30 64-67%

D = 1.00 61-63% Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives.

D- = 0.70 58-60%

F = 0.00 57%> Unacceptable work: failure of course objective

REQUIREMENTS:

“Foundations” Paper: In this research paper the student is asked to identify, explain and analyze some key ethical/theological foundations of John Wesley’s commitment to serve the poor. As part of this analysis the student should present an overview of Wesley’s social context and the interdependence between Wesley’s work and social reform. **Due: ???, 01**

“Application” Paper: Based on the above paper, the student will develop a tentative response to issues of poverty and a practical application for his/her ministry setting. The student is expected to give an overview description of the social context of his/her place of ministry and to apply Wesley’s ethical/theological foundations in his/her context. **Due: ???, 01**

Final Examination: The Final Exam will be a 48 hr. take-home exam. On the date of the final exam, each student will receive 7 questions and will be required to answer 5 of them. In each answer the student is expected to write a “short essay” response in which he/she will integrate and articulate the material discussed in class as well as other relevant sources. Each “short essay” should be between 4 to 5 pages (without including endnotes).

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 AND final exam use and follow:

*Ballou, Stephen Vaughan, William Giles Campbell, and Carol Slade. *Form and Style*:

Research Papers, Reports, Theses. 10th ed. [or newer] Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994.

Session 1

Introductions, Expectations, Requirements, and other Details.

Wesley's Notion of Christian Responsibility

Required Readings:

Wesley's Sermons: "XXVIII Sermon on the Mount" "XXXVIII A Caution Against Bigotry" "XXXIX Catholic Spirit" "XLVIII Self-Denial" "L The Use of Money" "LI The Good Steward" "LXXIV Of the Church"

Wesley's View of Riches and Poverty

Required Readings:

Wesley's Sermons: "LXXXVII The Danger of Riches" "XCI On Charity" "XCVIII On Visiting the Sick" "CVIII On Riches" "CXII The Rich Man and Lazarus" "CXXVI On the Danger of Increasing Riches" "CXXXIX On Love" "Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions" "Thoughts upon Slavery"

Session 2

Wesley's Work Among the Poor

Required Readings:

Sherwin, *John Wesley* . . . 3-12

Wesley's Moral Foundations for His Work Among the Poor

Required Readings:

MacArthur, *The Economic Ethics of* . . . Chapters 2-4
Thomas Madron, "John Wesley on Economics" in *Sanctification and Liberation*.

The Great Debate: Did Wesley Save England From Revolution?

Required Readings:

John Kent "Methodism and Social Change in Britain" in *Sanctification and Liberation*.
Sherwin, *John Wesley Friend of the People*. Chapters 1,2, 13-16
MacArthur, *The Economic Ethics of John Wesley*. Chapter 1

Session 3

An Interpretation of Wesley's Views

Required Readings:

Jennings, *Good News to the Poor*. Entire Text

The Poor in the Wesleyan Traditions

Required Readings:

Meeks, *The Portion of the Poor*. Entire Text

(See next page for more required readings for this session)

Tentative Applications: Sanctification, Liberation, and The Poor.

Required Readings:

Runyon, *Sanctification and Liberation*. Pages 7-64 and 116-224

Session 4

Social Ethics in Wesleyan Perspective

Required Readings:

Hynson, *To Reform the Nation* Entire Text

Session 5

Conclusions and Implications

Required Readings:

Dunning, *Reflecting the Divine Image* Entire Text

Final Exam: The Final Exam will be faxed or e-mailed on ??????. And it should be returned by regular mail postmarked by ??????? (Obviously before the post office closes that day).

Please do not fax or e-mail your final exam to me, regular mail is O.K.

If you prefer to turn in your final exam in person, please talk to the professor to set up a time.