

1-1-2001

CS 700 Servant as Liberator

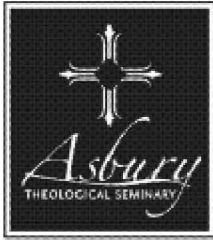
James R. Thobaben

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204 N. Lexington Avenue • Wilmore, KY 40390 • 859.858.3581

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CS 700: Servant as Liberator Asbury Theological Seminary Spring 2001

SECTION A: M & W 1:00 - 2:15

James R. Thobaben, Ph.D.

Office Location: McPheeters Center 307

Office Phone: 858-2369 Home Phone 858-8058

Office Hours: M 2:30 - 4:00, Th 12:30 - 2:00 & by appointment

SECTION B: T & Th 11:00 - 12:15

Christine Pohl, Ph.D.

Office Location: McPheeters Center 308

Office Phone: 858-2284 Home Phone 858-8136

Office Hours: T & Th 12:30 - 3:00 pm & by appointment

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 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 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).
Marquardt, Manfred, John Wesley's Social Ethics [trans. Steely & Gunter]
(Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1992).
Packet (*readings are not in order in packet*)

Evaluation:

- 20% Required Historical Paper: 4 - 5 page limit
- 50% Research Paper: 12-15 page limit
- 30% Final Examination
- Debit: For inadequate class participation and/or late or incomplete reading.
- Extra credit of one grade level (e.g., B+ to A-; B to B+) on final exam for full attendance at and participation in "Breathtaking Decisions" (bioethics conference March 10 & 11).

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 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 2/ 28 (A); 2/29 (B).

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 (A); 4/25 (B).

Final Examination: The one-hour exam will be oriented toward objective knowledge. Section A on Monday 5/15 at 10:30 am; Section B on Thursday 5/18 at 9:00 am.

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.

INTRODUCTION: BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS

**Week 1 (2/7) Overview of course & introduction to terms,
Biblical themes, and tools of social analysis**

Week 2 (2/14) 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 (2/21) Historical foundations for contemporary Christian social ethics

Marquardt, entire text

Heitzenrater, Richard, "The Imitatio Christi and the Great Commandment:

Virtue and Obligation in Wesley's Ministry with the Poor,"

Portion of the Poor (Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 1995)

Week 4 (2/28) Continue 'historical foundations'

Dayton, entire text

HISTORICAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS – Monday 2/28 (A); Tuesday 2/29 (B).

THE CHURCH AS A MORAL COMMUNITY

Week 5 (3/6) Church as a Community of Reconciliation

Gutierrez, Gustavo, "Introduction to Rev. Ed.," *A Theology of Liberation* (rev.) (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1988).

Russell, Letty M., "Human Liberation & Theology," *Human Liberation in a Feminist Perspective* (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1974)

Hauerwas, Stanley "The Servant Community: Christian Social Ethics" *The Peaceable Kingdom*
Volf, Miroslav "Exclusion and Embrace: Theological Reflection in the Wake of 'Ethnic Cleansing'" in Dyrness, William A. *Emerging Voices in Global Christian Theology*
Callahan, Sidney, "To Bear Wrongs Patiently," *With All Our Heart and Mind* (New York: Crossroad, 1988).

Barmen Declaration

Bioethics Conference Participation

Week 6 (3/13) Reconciliation: Gender Relations

Koch, Margaret & Van Leeuwen, Mary Stewart, "Feminism and Christian Vision," *After Eden* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans & Carlisle, PA: The Paternoster Press, 1993)

Gilligan, Carol, "Moral Orientation & Moral Development," *Women and Moral Theory* (Savage, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, 1987)

Week 7 (3/20) Reconciliation: Race Relations

Wesley, John, "Thoughts Upon Slavery" *The Works of the Rev. John Wesley* (ed. Thomas Jackson) (London: John Mason, 1830)

Douglass, Frederick "Appendix," *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Wallis, Jim, "America's Original Sin: The Legacy of White Racism," *America's Original Sin: A Study on White Racism* (Washington, D.C.: Sojourners Resource Center, 1992)

Perkins, Spencer & Rice, Chris, "More Than Skin Deep" & "Kingdom Choices" *More Than Equals* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993)

CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SPHERES OF SOCIAL LIFE

Week 8 (3/27) Christians and the Church in the Political Sphere

Calvin, John, "Civil Government," *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1960)

"Schleitheim Confession" in *The Reformation: A Narrative History* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1982)

Allen, Joseph, "Moral Conflicts IV: Wrongdoers & the Wronged," *Love and Conflict: A Covenantal Model of Christian Ethics* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1984)

King, Martin Luther, "Letter From Birmingham Jail," *Why We Can't Wait* (New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1963)

READING WEEK

Week 9 (4/10) Christians and the Church in the Economic Sphere

Augustine of Hippo, "Sermon XXXVI," *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church* (ed. Philip Schaff) (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, reprint 1980)

- Calvin, John, 'On Usury' Calvin's Ecclesiastical Advice
(trans. Mary Beaty & Benjamin Farley) (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster & John Knox Press, 1991).
- Wesley, John, "The Danger of Riches"
The Works of the Rev. John Wesley (ed. John Emory)
(N.Y., N.Y.: Eaton & Mains, 1833).
- 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.
- Stott, John, "Work & Unemployment" Decisive Issues Facing Christians Today
(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"
Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Catholic Conference, 1986)

Week 10 (4/17) **Continue 'economic sphere'**

Week 11 (4/24) **Christians and the Church in the Familial Sphere**

- Meilander, Gilbert, "A Christian View of the Family," Rebuilding the Nest: A New Commitment to the American Family (ed. David Blankenhorn, Steven Bayne, and Jean Bethke Elshtain) (Milwaukee, WI: Family Service America, 1990)
- Meilander, Gilbert, "The Eclipse of Fatherhood" First Things (June/July 1995)
- Pipher, Mary "Protecting Families -- Houses with Walls" The Shelter of Each Other
- Gorman, Michael, "The Relevance of the Early Church for Today" Abortion and the Early Church (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1982)
- Mathews-Green, Frederica "Subversive Civility" Park Ridge Center Bulletin May/June 1999
- Hauerwas, Stanley, Abortion Theologically Understood (not in packet)
- RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS – Monday 4/24 (A); Tuesday 4/25 (B)**

Week 12 (5/1) **Christians and the Church in the Cultural (popular) Sphere**

- Taylor, Daniel "Deconstructing the Gospel of Tolerance," Christianity Today January 11, 1999
- Mouw, Richard, "Defending Christian Civility" & "What's Good About Pluralism" Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992).
- Hays, Richard "Homosexuality" The Moral Vision of the New Testament
- "An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of the Creation"
- Bratton, Susan Power, "Christian Care for Creation: Across Continents, Through Centuries," Green Cross (1:2, Winter 1995) (not in packet)

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

- Engelhardt, H. Tristram, "The Social Meaning of Illness"
Second Opinion (Vol.1, 1986)
- Reichel, William & Dyck, Arthur, "Euthanasia: A Contemporary Moral Quandary" The Lancet (December 2, 1989)
- Pelligrino, Edmund, "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide," Dignity and Dying: A Christian Appraisal, ed. by Kilner, Miller, and Pelligrino
(Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996)

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| FINAL EXAM: | Section A – Thobaben: Monday | 5/15 | 10:30 am - 12:30 pm |
| | Section B – Pohl: Thursday | 5/18 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am |

READING RECORD: Due with Final Exam