



ASSEMBLIES of GOD
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

MSS 639/PTH 640 PENTECOSTAL
PERSPECTIVES ON JUSTICE, THE
CHURCH AND SOCIETY
Fall 2009

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE PRESENTERS

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Guest lecturers in specialized fields

COURSE DATES

In the Fall of 2009 the course will be presented on Fridays from 9:00 to 11:45 am.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates issues of social injustice, inequality and the exploitation of vulnerable groups in society from a distinctly Pentecostal perspective. The course will seek to lay a solid biblical foundation for the church's involvement in these issues and seek to trace the impact of God's people throughout history in restoring biblical standards of social justice in society. Particular attention will be paid to international issues such as poverty, children at risk, racial discrimination, AIDS and international sex trafficking. Particular social problems that seriously disrupt family life locally will also be highlighted. The course will seek to evaluate the intervention strategies of local, federal and international agencies (both religious and secular) from an integrated, biblically-based development framework.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students should be able to

1. Articulate a cogent, biblically-based theology regarding the Kingdom of God. This theology should consider the affect of social engagement for Christians while avoiding the two conceptual extremes of "social gospel" which limits the necessity of spiritual transformation, on the one hand and spiritual isolationism which limits the transformational power of the gospel on the other.
2. Evaluate social intervention strategies from an integrated, biblically-based development schema.
3. Evaluate appropriate personal and corporate responses for the Church. Determine what criteria are appropriate for the church or a social service agency to determine

if their activities conform to evidence-based developmental criteria.

TEXTBOOKS

Dempster, M.A.H. & Klaus, B.D. (Eds.) (1991). *Called and Empowered: Global mission in Pentecostal perspective*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.

Enrichment Journal Spring 2004: A revival of compassion. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House.

Samuel, V. and Sugden, C. (Eds.) (1999). *Mission as transformation: A theology of the whole Gospel*. Oxford: Regnum Books.

Stearns, Richard (2009). *The hole in our gospel: What does God expect of us?* Nashville: Thomas Nelson

METHODOLOGY

The course will consist of lectures, instructional videos, dialogues, work assessments, personal research projects and interacting with specialists in the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course requirements are explained in more detail below, as are the relative weights given to each requirement.

1. Students are required to actively participate in class discussions and a grade will be given based on the quality of participation that the student exhibits over the semester. Active participation is understood as providing informative comments, probing questions, and insightful contributions. This should not be confused with simply the audible amount of talking in class. Participation will account for 10% of the grade for the course.
2. Students will be required to read Stearns' book and write a personal reflection on his approach to theology. The book report/interaction/reflection should NOT exceed 5 pages and include a summary understanding of Stearns' main thesis, as well as a personal reflection as the student reacts to the thesis of this book. This report will be due on a date to be determined in class and account for 20% of the grade for the course.
3. Students will be required to read one other book from a prescribed list that will be presented in class. As with the previous assignment, the report/interaction/reflection should NOT exceed 5 pages and include a summary understanding of the main thesis of this book, as well as personal reflection as the student reacts to the thesis of this book. The student will also be required to provide the rest of the class with a one-

page critical summary of the main thesis of the book and verbally present this summary to their colleagues at a date to be determined in class. This report and presentation will account for 30% of the grade for the course.

4. A summative research project of 10 to 12 pages, and in accordance with writing standards that will be discussed in class, will be required on a date toward the end of the semester as indicated by the professor. This project will require students to produce a document that submits their understanding of a theology of the Kingdom; their understanding of an integrated, holistic gospel, and explain how this concept of missio dei is likely to influence their future course of action within their ministry context. In the paper the student will be expected to integrate the course material, refer to the literature prescribed for the course, reflect on the student presentations and specialists that were invited to the class as guest lecturers, and support their understanding by referring to peer-reviewed journals. This research project will account for 40% of the course grade.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The grade obtained for the course will therefore be calculated in the following manner:

1. Active participation in class: 10%
2. Stearns book review: 20%
3. Solo book review and class presentation: 30%
4. Summative research project: 40%

GRADE SYSTEM

Work is Publishable = A+
94% - 100% = A Excellent
90% - 93% = A- Excellent (but)
87% - 89% = B+ Very Good
84% - 86% = B Good Work
80% - 83% = B- Good (but)
77% - 79% = C+ Fair but almost good enough
74% - 76% = C Fair
70% - 73% = C- Just Passable
67% - 69% = D+ Poor but almost made it
64% - 66% = D Poor
60% - 63% = D- Highly questionable

RESEARCH REPORT

Students will be required to **research and submit a report** (10 to 12-pages, double-spaced, on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper) as described above. Scholarly books, journal articles and/or tapes in the library should be utilized and a bibliography of at least 12 sources should be included at the end of the paper. References dealt with in the course can be

used for this purpose. At least a quarter of these sources should be scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals. Internet resources and online journals are generally not considered scholarly journals. They need to be used very sparingly. The presentation of the report can be in accordance with the American Psychological Association (APA) style manual but other formats with which the student is more familiar may also be used. The report will be due at midnight on a date to be determined in class.

The report must be submitted electronically to the professor and the subject line of the email should state: **PTH 640/Research Report/Your Name**. The header of the report **must include** your name and your email address so that the report can be returned to you expeditiously. A corrected version, with a grade will be returned to the students by email if they provided their email address in the header of the report.

Note: This syllabus was prepared by Dr. Johan Mostert on June 30, 2009. The contents or requirements as presented here may undergo alteration before the commencement of the course in the fall.

Reading List in Holistic Ministry and Social Justice Issues

1. Ajulu, Deborah. (2001). *Holism in development: An African perspective on empowering communities*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
2. Anderson, Mary B. & Olson, Lara. (2003). *Confronting war: Critical lessons for peace practitioners*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
3. Anderson, Mary B. (1999). *Do no harm: How aid can support peace or war*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
4. Ball, Marcia L. & Cerullo, Jennie A. (2004). *It takes courage! Promoting character and healthy life choices*. Kerus Global Publishing: Harrisonburg, VA. www.kerusglobal.org
5. Belshaw, Derreck, Calderisi, Richard & Sugden, Chris. (2002). *Faith in development: Partnership between the World Bank and the churches of Africa*. Oxford: Regnum Books & World Bank Publications. 200pp.
6. Brandt, Don (Ed.). (2004). *Inheriting the earth: Poor communities and environmental renewal*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
7. Budziszewski, J. (2006). *Evangelicals in the public square*. Baker Books.
8. Burch, G.W. (2005). *Community children: A ministry of hope and restoration for the street dwelling child*. Miami: LAM.
9. Bussau, David & Mask, Russell (2003). *Christian microenterprise development: An introduction*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
10. Christian, J. (1999). *God of the empty-handed: Poverty, power and the kingdom of God*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
11. Claerbaut, David. (2005). *Urban ministry in a new millennium*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
12. Claiborne, Shane. (2006). *Irresistible revolution: Living as an ordinary radical*. Zondervan.
13. Cox, Harvey. (2001). *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the 21st Century*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press.
14. Dean, Judith M., Schaffner, Julie & Smith, Stephen L.S. (2005). *Attacking poverty in the developing world*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.

15. Dempster, M.A.H. & Klaus, B.D. (Eds.) (1991). *Called and Empowered: Global mission in Pentecostal perspective*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.
16. Donaldson, Dave and Stanley W. Carlson-Thies (2003). *A Revolution of Compassion*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
17. Dortzbach, Deborah & Long, W.Meredith. (2006). *The AIDS crisis: What we can do*. Downers Grove, Il.: Intervarsity Press.
18. *Enrichment Journal Spring 2004: A revival of compassion*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House. <http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org>
19. Fawcett, John (Ed.). (2003). *Stress and trauma handbook: Strategies for flourishing in demanding environments*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
20. Fong, Rowena (Ed.). (2004). *Culturally competent practice with immigrant and refugee children and families*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.
21. Gordon, W. (1995). *Real hope in Chicago*. Zondervan.
22. Hall, Jyl. (2006). *A guide to acting on AIDS: Understanding the global AIDS pandemic and responding through faith and action*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
23. Harrison, L.E. (1985). *Underdevelopment is a state of mind: The Latin American Case*. Harvard University/Washington: University Press of America.
24. Harrison, L.E. & Huntington, S.P. (Eds.) (2001). *Culture Matters: How values shape human progress*. Jackson, TN:Basic Books
25. Haugen, Gary A. (1999). *Good news about injustice: A witness of courage in a hurting world*. Downers Grove, Il.: Intervarsity Press.
26. Hoksbergen, Roland & Ewert, Lowell M. (Eds.). (2002). *Local ownership global change*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
27. Houlihan, R.W. (2005). *Leading pastors and local churches in compassion ministries*. A project submitted to the doctor of ministry project committee at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.
28. Jayakumar, C. (1999). *God of the Empty-Handed: Poverty, Power and the Kingdom of God*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision

International.

29. Jayakumar, Samuel. (2002). *Mission reader: Historical models for wholistic mission in the Indian context*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
30. Jenkins, P. (2002). *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press. Also a new 2007 edition.
31. Johnson, Peter & Catherwood, Christopher (2001). *Markets, fair trade and the Kingdom of God*. Oxford: Traidcraft & Regnum Books.
32. Kilbourn, Phyllis & McDermid, Marjorie (Eds.). (1998). *Sexually exploited children: Working to protect and heal*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
33. Kilbourn, Phyllis (Ed.). (1995). *Healing the children of war: A handbook for ministry to children who have suffered deep traumas*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
34. Kilbourn, Phyllis (Ed.). (1996). *Children in crisis: A new commitment*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
35. Kretzmann, J.P. & McKnight, J. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: A path toward mobilizing a community's assets*. ACTA Publications: Chicago.
36. Kyle, David & Koslowski, Rey (Eds.). (2001). *Global human smuggling: Comparative perspectives*. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press.
37. Lane, Patty. (2002). *A beginner's guide to crossing cultures: Making friends in a multi-cultural world*. Downers Grove, Il.: Intervarsity Press.
38. Lewis, H.T. (2001) *Christian Social Witness*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications.
39. Lewis, R. (2001). *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
40. Lingenfelter, S. (1998). *Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
41. Linthicum, R.C. (1991). *Empowering the poor*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
42. Linthicum, R.C. (2003). *Transforming power: Biblical strategies for making a difference in your community*. Downers Grove, Il: InterVarsity Press.

43. Lupton, R. (2005). *Renewing the city: Reflections on community development and urban renewal*. InverVarsity Press.
44. McDonald, Patrick & Garrow, Emma. (2000). *Children at risk: Networks in action*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
45. Messer, D.E. (2004). *Breaking the conspiracy of silence: Christian Churches and the global AIDS crisis*. Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis, MN.
46. Miles, Glenn & Wright, Josephine-Joy. (2003). *Celebrating children: Equipping people working with children and young people living in difficult circumstances around the world*. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press.
47. Miller, Darrow L. (1998). *Discipling Nations: The power of truth to transform cultures*. YWAM Publishing, Seattle WA.
48. Moffitt, Bob (2004). *If Jesus were mayor*. Phoenix, Arizona: Harvest.
49. Myers, Bryant L. (Ed.). (1999b). *Working with the poor: New insights and learnings from development practitioners*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
50. Myers, Bryant, L. (1999). *Walking with the Poor: Principles and practices of transformational development*. Orbis Books: Maryknoll, NY.
51. Perkins, John (1995). *Restoring at-risk communities*. Baker Books.
52. Perkins, John M. (1976). *Let justice roll down*. Regal Books.
53. Perkins, John M. (1982). *With justice for all*. Regal Books.
54. Perkins, S. and Rice, C. (2000). *More than equals: Racial healing for the sake of the gospel (Revised Edition)*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.
55. Petersen, Doug. (1996). *Not by Might nor by Power: A Pentecostal Theology of Social Concern in Latin America*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
56. Pipher, Mary. (2002). *The middle of everywhere: The world's refugees come to our town*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Inc.
57. Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. (2004). *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland, CO: Group.
58. Samuel, Vinay & Sugden, Christopher (1999). *Mission as transformation: A theology of the Whole Gospel*. Oxford: Regnum Books.

59. Samuel, Vinay & Sugden, Christopher. (2003). *The church in response to human need*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers.
60. Sider, R. J. (2005). *Rich Christians in an age of hunger: Moving from affluence to generosity*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
61. Sider, Ron J. (1999). *Just generosity*. Baker Books.
62. Sue, Derald Wing, and Sue, David. (2003). *Counseling the Culturally Diverse: Theory & Practice* (Fourth Edition). New York: John Wiley Publishers.
63. Sugden, Christopher. (2000). *Gospel, culture and transformation*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
64. Sultan, Pervaiz. (2002). *Church and development: A case study from Pakistan*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
65. The aWake Project: *Uniting against the African AIDS Crisis* (2002). W. Publishing Group: Nashville, TN. www.wpublishinggroup.com

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Lausanne Occasional Papers (LOP)

66. "At risk people" (LOP 34, 49 pp.)
http://community.gospelcom.net/lcwe/assets/LOP34_IG5.pdf
67. "Business as Mission" report (LOP 59, 88 pp.)
http://www.lausanne.org/lcwe/assets/LOP59_IG30.pdf
68. "Evangelism and Social Responsibility" (LOP 21)
<http://www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=14748>
69. "Holistic Mission" report (LOP 33, 70 pp.)
http://www.lausanne.org/lcwe/assets/LOP33_IG4.pdf
70. "Reconciliation as the Mission of God" (LOP 51, pp 58.)
http://community.gospelcom.net/lcwe/assets/LOP51_IG22.pdf
71. vanDrunen, David. (nd). *A Biblical case for natural law*. Studies in Christian social ethics and economics: Number 1, Acton Institute: Grand Rapids.
72. Volf, Miroslav (1996). *Exclusion and Embrace: A theological exploration of identity, otherness and reconciliation*. Abingdon Press.
73. Wallis, Jim. (2005). *God's politics: Why the right gets it wrong and the left doesn't get it*. Harper: San Francisco.
74. Yamamori, T., Myers, B. & Conner, D. (Eds.). (1995). *Serving with the poor in Asia: Cases in holistic ministry*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.

75. Yamamori, T., Myers, B. & Luscombe, K.. (Eds.). (1998). *Serving with the urban poor: Cases in holistic ministry*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
76. Yamamori, T., Myers, B., Padilla, C.R. & Rake, G. (1997). *Serving with the poor in Latin America: Cases in holistic ministry*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
77. Yoder, J.H. (1984). *The priestly Kingdom: Social ethics as gospel*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.