

Course Syllabus

Spring 2010

TITLE: *POL 427: Family, Church and Society Studies*

SUBJECT AREA: Political Science; Social Ethics

GUIDING

PRINCIPLES: *Relationship of Family, Church, and Government; Sanctity of Life; Preeminence of Evangelism*

PROFESSOR: **Dr. Del Tackett**

Author, architect, teacher for Focus on the Family's *The Truth Project*; Writer and On-Air Host for the *Cross Examine* television program, Coral Ridge Ministries Media; Professor, New Geneva Theological Seminary

CREDITS: 3.0 semester hours; 4.5 quarter hours

DESCRIPTION:

A course in Christian sociological and political thought and leadership action. Students will be challenged to think carefully and deeply concerning their personal leadership role in effecting transformation in every social sphere of life.

The course consists of two concentrations. The first will focus on understanding God's design for social order and the relationships between the social spheres. This includes the roles, responsibilities, purposes and boundaries of each sphere as God created them. The second will deal with application of this understanding. This includes examination of the pathologies associated with each sphere and the burning issues those pathologies bring to our culture. Students will be challenged with issues ranging from homosexuality to abortion to taxation. This challenge will occur in the classroom and in the field, where they will receive intensive training in "pro-life apologetics", followed by a two-day outreach on campus.

The final application will include a historical study of the key aspects of the founding of the United States of America, with special attention given to the founders' social vision and their understanding of the relationship between religion, morality and the state. Additionally, this section will help the student defend the existence of objective moral principles against postmodern ethical relativism.

Students will be challenged throughout this course to examine their personal and unique call to leadership roles and responsibilities. The pursuit of that call and its personal application will be considered a critical aspect of the desired outcomes of this area of study.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

- Understand God's design for social order and the relationships between the social institutions
- Develop a deep sense of compassion for those trapped in the turmoil and destruction of

social pathology and a consequential hunger and commitment to become a world changer for Christ.

- Explain the authority structure, roles, responsibilities, purposes and boundaries of each social institution
- Describe current issues and pathologies that are manifested within each social institution
- Articulate the Christian's personal role in effecting transformation in every social sphere of life
- Explain the historical foundations of the American Experiment
- Equip the students to engage various contemporary social issues with Christ-like compassion and insight, with particular emphasis upon the defense of the existence of objective moral values
- Learn the importance of being attractively winsome in one's interface with the world
- Give thoughtful consideration to one's unique leadership role as an agent of change in culture

TOPICS & ACTIVITIES:

- Understanding the Cosmic Battle and God's general design for social order
- Contemplating the triune nature of God in social design
- Intimacy and the divine mark within the family
- Shepherd leadership and God's delegating call to rule
- Unio Mystica: The awesome reality of being a child of God
- The mystery of Christ and the church
- Understanding the Divine delegation of authority and the design of the state
- Law, politics and the foundations of the American state
- Contemplating Divine creativity and God's design for labor and the marketplace
- Examining the lost art of community and God's design to love your neighbor
- Evaluating the burning issues within our culture
- Pro-Life Apologetics
- Pro-Life Outreach
- Risk-takers and world-changers; being "light" and "salt" in a needy world

READINGS:

[A] = Apartment; [P] = Purchased (in bold); [R] = Reader (supplied)

Bonhoffer, D. (1954). Life together. San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins. [A]

Briner, B. (1993). Roaring lambs: A gentle plan to radically change your world. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Colson, C. (2003). Being the body. Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group. [R]

de Tocqueville, Alexis. (1835). Democracy in America, (Vol 1). (Reprinted by Vintage Books, New York, 1990). [R]

Dobson, J. (2004). Marriage under fire. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, Inc. [A]

Ellis, E. S. (1884). Not yours to give. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates (Reprinted by Conservative Printing, 2003).

- Kavanaugh, P. 1996. *Spiritual lives of the great composers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. [R]
- Lee, D. (2007). *Abortion: From Debate to Dialog.* Wichita, KS: Justice For All. [R]
- Minnery, T. (2001). *Why you can't stay silent: A biblical mandate to shape our culture*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers. [A]
- Pollock, J. (1996). *William Wilberforce: A man who changed his times*. McLean, VA: Trinity Forum. [A]
- Schlossberg, H. (1990). *Idols for destruction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books. [A]
- Schmidt, A. J. (2001). *How Christianity saved the world*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House. [P]**
- Sowell, T. (1995). *The vision of the anointed*. New York, NY: Basic Books. [A]
- St. Benedict Center. (ND). *The fathers speak – for life!* [R]
- Wagner, S. (2008). *Common ground – without compromise: 25 questions to create dialogue on abortion*. Signal Hill: CA: Stand to reason.**

AUDIO TAPES *All audio tapes are in the apartments or purchased (Klusendorf).*

- Colson, Charles. *Challenge to be a light in a dark age, Parts 1 & 2* (60 minutes).
- Dobson, James. *The struggle between good and evil*. (30 minutes).
- Klusendorf, Scott. *The Great Abortion Debate*. (2 CDs)

GRADED REQUIREMENTS

Reading and Audiotapes - Worth 20 points

The student is responsible for all reading and audiotape assignments listed in the “Lesson Plan and Readings.” Students will be asked to report on their readings and tapes (please only report on your own readings not that of others who may have missed class), with the final points being determined on the basis of the percentage completed, as follows:

Required Readings: Total pages possible: 1082

Lesson	Pages
1	99
2	93
3	117
4	64
5	110
6	110
7	91
8	109
9	84
10	92
11	56
12	57

Grading for Required Readings.

Pages Read	Percent	Points
1082	100%	20
1028	95%	19
974	90%	18
920	85%	17
866	80%	16
812	75%	15
757	70%	14
703	65%	13
649	60%	12
595	55%	11
541	50%	10
Below 541		0

Attendance. Because so much of the course benefit comes from in-class lecture and discussion, attendance at all classes is mandatory. You may miss a class in this course only with professor approval and only for a genuine personal emergency (e.g. sickness, family weddings/funerals).

Faith Challenge Paper

Worth 10 points – Due Wednesday, February 18 (IN CLASS)

Select one situation that most challenged your faith during your time so far in college. It can be something from the classroom; the dorm/sorority/fraternity/apartment; the social scene; or anything else that would fall within your life at the university. First, describe the situation and how you reacted. Second, describe how you would respond if you had the opportunity to live that experience over again. Draw upon the principles we have discussed in class and especially the notion of being attractively winsome. This is a P/F assignment. The paper, no more than two pages, is due to Dr. Tackett in class on Wednesday, February 18th, neatly typed and formatted with your name and section (Alpha or Omega) clearly typed in the heading on the top of the page.

Exam 1: Course Examination

Worth 30 points – Due Monday, March 22

A closed book and closed note examination that you will administer to yourself will be handed out in class on Wednesday, March 17th and will be due to Dr. Tackett by 5pm on Monday, March 22nd. The exam will be objective in nature and cover all the materials from Dr. Tackett's lectures and readings on those corresponding dates. This examination will be self-administered and each student is to abide by the standards of honor and Christian character as they prepare for and take this exam.

Exam 2: Pro-Life Apologetics

Worth 30 points – Due Friday, April 10

This examination will test the student's mastery of the basic concepts and logic of "pro-life apologetics" as presented in Steve Wagner's material, and will serve as preparation for the outreach. It will be a one hour, self-administered exam. This will be distributed Friday, April 9 in the JFA Training. The completed exam is to be submitted to Dr. Tackett by 8am on Monday, April 12.

JFA Outreach Reflections

Worth 10 points – Due Friday, April 16

Upon completion of the JFA experience it is my hope that you will spend a little time reflecting on what that experience was like. What did you see? What did hear? What did you say? What were your feelings? What were your thoughts? Etc. In one typed page (single spaced) please write your basic reflections on what your experience was like. This is a P/F assignment. The paper is due in ELECTRONIC FORM to Jeff Abel (@jeff.abel@fotf.org) by 5pm on Friday, April 16, neatly typed and formatted with your name and section (Alpha or Omega) clearly typed in the heading on the top of the page. **THE TITLE OF THE WORD DOCUMENT NEEDS TO BE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMAT – lastname.firstnameJFA.doc AND ATTACHED TO THE EMAIL.**

LESSON PLAN & READINGS

Lesson 1 (January 27 - WEDNESDAY)

INTRODUCTION TO THE COSMIC BATTLE, GOD'S DESIGN FOR SOCIAL ORDER AND THE INTIMATE FAMILY

Reading: Briner, Roaring lambs (1993, pp. 13-34); Schmidt, How Christianity changed the world (2001, pp. 7-45; 79-94; 97-122).

CREDITED PAGES: 99 [18, 39, 16, 26]]

Scripture: A: Col. 2:3, 8; Col. 4:5-6; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Romans 12-13; 1 Sam. 15:22-23
B: Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2: 18-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Mal. 2:13-16; Eph. 5:21, 6:4;
1 Peter 3:1-8; 1 Cor. 11:1-12; Exodus 20:12.

Lesson 2 (February 3 - WEDNESDAY)

THE AWESOME REALITY OF BEING A CHILD OF GOD AND THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

Reading: Briner, Roaring lambs (1993, pp. 37-115); Colson, (2003). Being the body (2003, pp. 39-49); AUDIO TAPE: Dobson, *The struggle between good & evil* (counts as 10 pages).

CREDITED PAGES: 93 [72, 11, 10]

Scripture: A. Col. 1:21; 1 Peter 2:11; Gal 5:16-17; James 4:1-2; Romans 7-8
B. Eph. 4:1-16; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 1:22; James 5:16; Eph. 4:32;
Col 3:16; Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11; Eph. 5:21; Gal. 5:13; Rom. 15:5; Phil. 2:3; Rom.
12:10; 1 Thess 4:18.

Lesson 3 (February 10 – WEDNESDAY)

DIVINE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY AND THE DESIGN OF THE STATE

Reading: Schmidt, How Christianity changed the world (2001, pp. 48-76, 248-270);
Sowell, The vision of the anointed (1995, pp. ix-63).

CREDITED PAGES: 117 [29, 23, 65]

Scripture: Romans 12:9-13:7; 1 Sam 8; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29; Daniel 4

Lesson 4 (February 18 - THURSDAY)

LAW, POLITICS AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Reading: Ellis, Not yours to give, (1884, pp. 1-12); de Tocqueville, Democracy in America
(1835, pp. 300-318); Minnery, Why you can't stay silent (2001, pp. 1-38).

CREDITED PAGES: 64 [12, 19, 33]

Scripture: Revelation 2:5

DUE IN CLASS – FAITH CHALLENGE PAPER

Lesson 5 (February 24 – WEDNESDAY)

DIVINE CREATIVITY & GOD’S DESIGN FOR LABOR & THE MARKETPLACE

Reading: Briner, Roaring lambs (1993, pp. 119-151); Schlossberg, Idols for destruction (1990, pp. 89-139); Schmidt, How Christianity changed the world (2001, pp. 194-215); Kavanaugh, Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers (1996, pp. 17-23)

CREDITED PAGES: 110 [30, 51, 22, 7]

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:10; Exodus 20:15-17; 1 Sam 2:7; 2 Thess 3:10; Prov 10:4; Eph 6:5-9; 1 John 3:17; Matt 20:1-16.

Lesson 6 (March 4 - THURSDAY)

THE LOST ART OF COMMUNITY AND GOD’S RADICAL DESIGN TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Reading: Schmidt, How Christianity changed the world (2001, pp. 125-148; 151-167); Bonhoffer, Life together (1954, pp. 7-75).

CREDITED PAGES: 110 [24, 17, 69]

Scripture: Matt 22:37-40; Luke 10:29-37; Deut 15:11; Deut 24:14; 1 Sam 2:8; Job 5:15; Psalm 12:5; Psalm 35:10; Psalm 72:4; Job 5:11; Psalm 138:6; Prov 29:23; Isa 57:15; Ezek 21:26.

Lesson 7 (March 11 – THURSDAY)

CHRISTIAN INVOLVEMENT: WORLD CHANGERS & RISK TAKERS

Readings: Pollock, William Wilberforce, A man who changed his times, (1996, pp. 2-22); Schmidt, How Christianity changed the world (2001, pp. 272-290); Minnery, Why you can’t stay silent (2001, pp.41-94).

CREDITED PAGES: 91 [21, 19, 51]

Scripture: Matt 11:28-29; Jer 20:9

Lesson 8 (March 17 - WEDNESDAY)

BURNING ISSUES OF SOCIAL ORDER

Reading: Dobson, Marriage under fire (2004, pp. 7-106, small book, page count: 50); Schmidt, How Christianity changed the world (2001, pp. 345-403).

CREDITED PAGES: 109 [50, 59]

Guests: Carrie Gordon Earl, Medical Issues, Public Policy, Focus on the Family
Kermit Rainman, Public Policy, Focus on the Family

Lesson 9 (April 9 - FRIDAY)

JUMPING INTO THE DEEP END: PRO-LIFE APOLOGETICS

Readings: Wagner, S. Common Ground (2008; pp. 13-105), JFA Handbook Review – including linked articles (to be posted in on-line community prior to training).

CREDITED PAGES: 92

NOTE: This class session is followed IMMEDIATELY by an extended training session from 12:30-2:30pm in the Alpha Classroom.

Guest: David Lee, Executive Director, Justice for All (and staff)

Lesson 10 & 11 (April 12-13 - MONDAY/TUESDAY)

JUSTICE FOR ALL OUTREACH

Readings: Lee. “Abortion: From Debate to Dialog.” (2007: *Reader*, pp. 1-113).

CREDITED PAGES: 113

Lesson 12 (April 21 – WEDNESDAY)

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Readings: Briner, Roaring lambs (1993, pp. 155-179); Minnery, Why you can't stay silent (2001, pp. 97-138); AUDIO TAPE: Colson, *Challenge to be a light in a dark age, Parts 1 & 2* (counts as 20 pages).

CREDITED PAGES: 84 [22, 42, 20]

Truth Project Training (You will receive a set of Truth Project DVDs)