SYLLABUS

1HT506: Church and World
Spring 2011

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

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Office hours: By appointment.

Course description:
A course examining the relationship of the church and society. Particular attention is given to differing Christian approaches to the relationship of Christ and culture and to the impact of secularization, industrialization, and modern science. The growth of Christianity in third world countries and in urban settings is considered.

Course dates:
Mondays, 1pm-4pm; specifically, we will meet for class times on the following Mondays: February 7, February 14, February 21, March 7, March 21, March 28, April 18, and May 2
There will be proctored one-hour tests on the following Mondays: February 28 and April 4

Goals:
1. The student will be introduced to the history of the Christian church in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly emphasizing the way certain beliefs and practices have shaped Christian identity.
2. Through the lectures, the student will be exposed to the cultural and political contexts of Christian thought and develop a greater critical appreciation for the Christian tradition.
3. Through the reading and discussions, the student will be oriented to key figures, beliefs, practices, and stories in the life of the Christian church and will explore how they relate to contemporary Christian life and ministry.
4. Through the exams, the student will reflect on how Christian identity, as represented in the last two centuries of the church’s history, continues to have relevance for contemporary Christian life and ministry.
5. Through the final essay, the student will engage critically on how Christianity and culture/society relate to one another and will forge a working model for thinking through these issues for Christian ministry.

Required texts:
Stanley Grenz and Roger Olson, Twentieth-Century Theology: God and World in a Transitional Age (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1993); ISBN: 978-0830815258; $28.00

Abraham Kuyper, *Lectures on Calvinism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; often reprinted); 978-0802816078; $16.00

J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; often reprinted); ISBN: 978-0802864994; $15.00


**Recommended texts:**

D. A. Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008); ISBN: 978-0802831743; $24.00

Andy Crouch, *Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2008); ISBN: 978-0830833948; $20.00


**Requirements and Grading:**

1. **Regular attendance and class participation** (10%). Because there are only eight (8) class meetings, you will only be allowed to miss one (1) class period without it adversely affecting your grade. I will take attendance at each class meeting.

2. **Reading** (30%). The reading grade is broken into two parts:
   a. 2 one-page reaction papers (each worth 5%).
   b. Final reading summary (20%)

3. **Exams** (30%). You will have two (2) case-study exams based on your reading and course lectures to that point. Those exams will be given on Monday, February 21, 2011 and Monday, March 28, 2011.

4. **Final essay** (30%). You will write a 7-10 page essay, **due on May 9, 2011**. See below.

5. **Grading scale (standard RTS scale):**

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>94-96</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>91-93</td>
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<td>70-71</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>Below 70</td>
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As part of our purpose to train servants of the triune God to walk with God in all of life, we expect godly integrity in the academic work done at Reformed Theological Seminary. God’s covenant with His people calls for honesty and a commitment to truth (as in the 9th commandment). As we live in that covenant and in community with one another, upholding truth is an essential duty. Specifically applied to academic labors, this means that we accurately represent our work to others. In other words, neither cheating nor plagiarism is tolerated.

Instructions on particular assignments:

1. One-page reading reaction papers
   a. There will be two separate reaction papers, in which you will answer a specific question on the reading. You will find the appropriate question listed in the syllabus’s reading/lecture schedule, which will be distributed on the first day of class.
   b. The reaction paper will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font.
   c. The reaction paper will be due by the beginning of class time; no late papers will be accepted. If you will not be at the particular class time, you will need to submit your paper in advance.
   d. Please do not email your paper; it is your responsibility to get a hard-copy of the paper to the instructor.
   e. The grade is pass/fail; if you follow instructions completely (including form requirements stated in line b), you will receive the full amount of points (signified by a check mark). If you fail to follow instructions, then the instructor will determine how many points are appropriate.

2. Final essay
   • You will write a 7-10 page essay (I will not read past page 10) in which you compare and contrast H. Richard Niebuhr’s *Christ and Culture* to one book of your choice from the following three titles: D. A. Carson’s *Christ and Culture Revisited*; Andy Crouch, *Culture Making*; James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World*.
   • This paper will be written with one inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point Times Roman font. There are no exceptions to this format.
   • While the following outline should NOT be followed mechanically, you should generally follow this approach:
     o Section 1: Summarize Niebuhr’s basic argument, considering the following questions: what does he mean by “Christ”? what does he mean by “culture”? what is his taxonomy of the relationship between the two? Which is his preferred view?
     o Section 2: Summarize the basic argument of the book you chose, considering the following questions: how does he speak of culture? How does he think of “Christianity”/“church”/“Christ”? Is his approach personal or institutional or both or neither?
     o Section 3: Compare and contrast these two books. Which approach is more satisfying as a way of relating Christianity to culture?
     o Section 4: Suggest a way forward for your own ministry. How might these books shape the way you think about the relationship between Christianity and culture, church and world?
• The final essay is due on May 9, 2011; late essays will not be accepted.
• Essays may be emailed, but they should be emailed both to sean.lucas@fpcpca.net and first@fpcpca.net. I am not responsible for lost essays. If you are concerned about this, you should add the essay in to the faculty secretary or bring it to the final class meeting and hand it to me.

A READING AND COURSE LECTURE SCHEDULE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS