

Christianity and War
2CT622
(2008/Fall, 2 credit hours)

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Course Description:

This course will examine various responses that Christian communities have had to warfare and will also explore the problem of war in the Bible and the development of just war theory. Special attention will be given to *jus in bello* *jus ad bello* principles.

This course fulfills two hours of Christian Thought elective credit for those in the MA in Christian Thought degree program.

Goals:

1. To understand the development of Christian attitudes toward warfare.
2. To understand Holy War, Pacifism, Just War Theory, Realism, and Crusade.
3. To understand sources both biblical and extra-biblical behind Christian views of war.
4. To examine Just War Theory in historical context.

Class Meetings

Thursday 8am to 10am

Assignments

1. Paper (40%). The student will write a 12-15 page paper on one of the following three topics:
 - The student may analyze the teachings of any just war theorist, pacifist, realist, or crusader.
 - The student may critique any war according to the principles just war theory.
 - The student may write an exegetical paper on any of the passages in the bible often used to defend pacifism, just war theory, or holy war.

Other topics may be chosen with the professor's approval.

The paper should follow Turabian style and display graduate level research. The student must use at least 15 sources with no more than 3 of these sources being websites, and no less than three of these sources being journal articles. Students are

strongly encouraged to take advantage of the library's ILL program as there is much material available from other libraries.

The paper will be graded by the following criteria:

- 40% style and readability
- 40% content and research
- 20% creative interaction with the material

2. Reading. 20%

The textbook for this course is

Holmes, Arthur Frank. *War and Christian Ethics: Classic and Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2005

Students will read the text in its entirety. In addition, students will read 500 pages from a combination of books on the attached bibliography. Other reading may be substituted with the professor's approval. I encourage you to read in areas that interest you, so if you would like to study something specialized, please discuss it with me. Reading completed for the research paper will not count toward the 500 page total.

3. There will be a final exam covering the course lectures and textbook. The exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and essay questions and will account for 40% of the final grade.

Office Hours

I am available in my office between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If this does not work with your schedule, please contact me for an appointment.

Bibliography

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