CHRISTIAN LIFE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

Fall 2015
Professor: Charles M. Wingard, D. Min. E-mail: cwingard@rts.edu
Teaching Assistant: Adam Parker E-mail: adamc.parker@gmail.com
Time: Tuesday, 9-10
Class Hours: 1
Syllabus Revised: July 28, 2015

COURSE PURPOSE

This course assists the student in understanding and relating to secular culture.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

The Bible.


Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka,
https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/347/483


“Eyes on the Prize (5): Mississippi, Is This America 1962-1964,”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDKObod9sAw


**Recommended Texts:**


“Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years 1954-1964.” Originally broadcast on PBS, the six episodes may be watched on YouTube.

“Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-1985.” Originally broadcast on PBS, the eight episodes may be watched on YouTube.


*Plessy v. Ferguson*, [https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/163/537](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/163/537)


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE — Class attendance is mandatory. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade. Students missing one or more session (for any reason other than sickness) may either submit an additional, compensatory assignment [determined by the instructor] or choose to receive a half letter grade reduction in their final grade for each hour missed. In the event of a planned absence, written work must be submitted to the teaching assistant electronically by the start time of the class missed. In the event of absence due to sickness, arrangements must still be made with the TA to turn in those assignments that are due on the day that they are due.

2. READING ASSIGNMENTS, QUizzes, AND READING REPORT — Textbook assignments must be read prior to class. Each week when a reading assignment is due, a reading quiz will be given at the beginning of that class. On your quizzes, one question will ask if you have completed all reading and assignments prior to class. At the end of the semester the student will submit a reading report stating how much of the assigned reading was completed.

3. GRADES –
Weekly Reading Quizzes 75%
Reading Report 25% (due December 4)

4. GRADING SCALE -

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
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<td>94-96%</td>
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5. READING WEEK - There will be no class on October 6.

6. ELECTRONIC DEVICES - Computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted in class.

7. DISCLAIMER - The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester. Students are expected to keep up with syllabus revisions, which are posted online. Late work because an out of date syllabus was consulted will not be excused.
8. OFFICE HOURS – Monday through Thursday, by appointment or whenever my office door is open. My office is in the Dean Center attic.

COURSE OUTLINE

August 25: Thinking Christianly about the Church’s Place in American Culture (1)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Wells, chapters 1-3

September 1: Thinking Christianly about the Church’s Place in American Culture (2)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Wells, chapters 4-6

September 8: Thinking Christianly about the Church’s Place in American Culture (3)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Wells, chapter 7

September 15: Thinking Christianly about the Race (1)
Reading and Reading Quiz:
Noll, Introduction and chapters 1-2
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
“Eyes on the Prize (5): Mississippi, Is This America 1962-1964”

September 22: Thinking Christianly about Race (2)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Noll, chapters 3-4

September 29: Thinking Christianly about Race (3)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Noll, chapter 5 and theological conclusion

October 6: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

October 13: Thinking Christianly about Marriage (1)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Allberry (entire book)
Obergefell et al. v. Hodges

October 20: Thinking Christianly about Marriage (2)
Reading and Reading Quiz: George, chapters 1-3

October 27: Thinking Christianly about Marriage (3)
Reading and Reading Quiz: George, introduction and chapters 4-5

November 3: Thinking Christianly about Media Ecology (1)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Postman, chapters 1-5

November 10: Thinking Christianly about Media Ecology (2)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Postman, chapters 6-11

November 17: Thinking Christianly about Evangelism in a Secular Culture (1)
Reading and Reading Quiz: Butterfield (entire book)

November 24: Thinking Christianly about Evangelism in a Secular Culture (2)

December 4: Submit Reading Report by noon.
Name (Print):

I have read *Amusing Ourselves to Death* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read *Obergefell et al. v. Hodges* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read *Conjugal Union* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read *The Courage to Be Protestant* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read *God and Race in American Politics* in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have viewed “Eyes on the Prize (5): Mississippi, Is This America 1962-1964” in its entirety. Yes____ No ______
I have read Exodus 20:16 and Westminster Larger Catechism questions and answers 143-145. Yes____ No ______

My signature indicates that I have actually read these books, and not merely let my eyes skim over their pages.

Signature: __________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________________