Christian Life in a Secular Culture

Course Syllabus

Basic Information
Meeting Time: Mondays, 8:00–8:55 AM; August 31–December 3
Meeting Place: DC 2
Professor: Bruce P. Baugus
Office: DC (open office M-Th when not in class)
Phone: 601-923-1696
Email: bbaugus@rts.edu or bpbaugus@gmail.com
Teaching Assistant: Derek Moore

Catalogue Course Description
This seminar assists the student in understanding and relating to secular culture. Art forms, political and economic structure, and other elements of culture are examined.

Outline of Course Content
This course is divided into two large units. Over the first six weeks we will explore basic biblical teaching on several central issues related to living the Christian life in a secular culture:

- Week 1: Creation, the cross, and the lordship of Jesus Christ;
- Week 2: Theological anthropology and human culture;
- Week 3: Civil and ecclesiastical authority;
- Week 4: Saving grace, common grace, and the future of creation;
- Week 5: Sin, worldliness, and holiness; and
- Week 6: Individual callings or vocations.

Over the second six weeks we will explore the various models advanced by Reformed theologians for understanding the Christian’s relationship to culture:

- Week 7: Traditional Two Kingdoms
- Week 8: Spirituality of the Church
- Week 9: Fundamentalism
- Week 10: Transformationalism (type A & B)
- Week 11: Neo Two Kingdoms
- Week 12: Summary and Proposal

(This course will likely not meet during ETS Conference meetings, thus the twelve-week schedule)

Required Reading Material
Scripture
Westminster Standards and Three Forms of Unity
Calvin, Institutes
N. Plantinga, Engaging God’s World
D. VanDrunen, Living in God’s Two Kingdoms

Selections by Hodge, Lucas (and Hart), Thornwell or Dabney, Clabaugh (on McIntire), and the Gardiner Spring Resolutions of 1861 are available online or will be distributed in class.

Assignments
Midterm Exam (take home) 50% due the last class in October
Final Exam (take home) 50% due paper day

Both exams are take-home essay exams that will combine summaries of course content (reading materials and class lectures) and personal positions.