Christianity and War
2ST 707

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Course Description:
“Christianity and War” is a 2 hour theology elective course covering various responses that Christian communities have had to warfare. The course will explore different traditions in the ethics of war including pacifism, just war theory, cosmopolitanism, realism, and international law. Our primary focus will be upon the just war tradition since it is the dominant position within the Christian church.

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.

Class Meetings
Thursdays 1pm-3pm
Most of the time will be taken up with lectures by the professor. I will leave lots of time for questions and discussion, however.

Grading
See the current catalog for the grading scale.

1. Paper (40%). The student will write a 15-20 page research paper. In the paper the student may:
   - Analyze the teachings of any just war theorist, pacifist, realist, or crusader.
   - Critique any war according to any of the principles of just war theory.
   - Write an exegetical paper on any of the passages in the bible often used to defend pacifism, just war theory, or crusades.
   - Discuss the historical development of a certain aspect of just war theory. For instance, a student may discuss the morality of torture or the idea of “right authority.”

    Students may choose any other related topic or idea with the professor’s permission

The paper should follow Turabian 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 fewer than 2 of these sources being peer-reviewed 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

An “A” paper will meet all requirements perfectly and provide a creative, scholarly contribution to the field. To get an idea of what such a paper would look like, read some peer-reviewed scholarly articles.

A “B” paper will meet all basic requirements but contains some errors or lacks creative scholarship.

A “C” paper meets most of the requirements and is readable.

Papers that contain plagiarized material, have many errors, are difficult to read or fail to meet the basic length and bibliography requirements will receive failing grades.

The paper will be due on the Term Paper Deadline which is May 15, 11:00 am.

2. Reading. 10%

The textbook for this course is

Students will read the textbook in its entirety. Students are also responsible for reading 1,000 additional pages from material other books and articles. Students may choose from any of the books annotated in my book Modern Just War Theory: A Guide to Research. This book is available in the reference section of the library. The textbook will be on the library reserve shelf. You have a lot of flexibility on what you choose to read so I encourage you to read in areas that interest you. Reading completed for the research paper can count toward the 1,000 page total so I strongly recommend that you read sources that will help you complete your paper. Students will indicate on the final exam how much of the required reading they completed.

3. There will be both a midterm and a final exam for this course. The midterm will be available in the library on March 23rd and you may take it any time during library hours between then and April 4th. The midterm will cover lecture material from the beginning of the course up through the March 19th lecture. The final may be taken during the examination period which is May 18-21 in a classroom to be announced. The final will cover lecture material from the midterm to the end of the semester. Both exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and essay questions. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The exams will ask for very specific and detailed information, so I suggest that you take very detailed notes. The exams will not cover material in the Holmes book.
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.

Very Select Bibliography.
I am just going to provide a few books in this bibliography that I hope can give you a start on finding other resources. For hints about how to research the ethics of war read pages 45-51 of my book

Cosmopolitanism


Crusade


Holy War


International Law

Evans, Malcolm D. International Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (note this book contains much material that is not relevant to the ethics of war including environmental law, and economic treaties. However the bulk of it is relevant to the ethics of war…it is over 800 pages, so it can cover a lot of ground)

**Just War Theory**


**Pacifism**


Realism
Anything by Reinhold Niebuhr but especially
Niebuhr, Reinhold. Christianity and Power Politics. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1940

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course**: 2ST622 Christianity & War  
**Professor**: Michael Farrell  
**Campus**: Orlando  
**Date**: 2015 Spring Semester

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong for written minimal for oral</td>
<td>Students must complete a 15-20 page research paper on the relationship between Christian ethics and war.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>We will be examining the theme of holy war in the Bible and biblical justifications for ethical theories on warfare.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>We will be examining the just war as conceived in the WCF as well as position papers adopted by PCA and OPC General Assemblies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>The study of ethics as it relates to war should have some sanctifying affect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>A major focus of the class is how we can apply the Bible to the problem of warfare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>We will winsomely engage many alternative ethical frameworks for war including pacifism and realism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Students should be able to better understand passages of Scripture dealing with war when they are called to preach from these passages.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>The problem of war and killing is</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
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and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.

| Church/World | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | This course will help pastors be able to engage the world on a topic that is sensitive and controversial. | one that many Christians struggle with. This is especially true for many Christians who have chosen military careers. This course will prepare future pastors to help counsel those struggling with these decisions. |