

ST6410 : Ministry in Today's University Context
July 2019 : Course Syllabus

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Course Description: This course examines the primary texts, figures, and movements accepted as foundational to classroom inquiry and campus life on secular university campuses in the United States. The aim of the examination is to prepare Christians with ministry opportunities on and to the secular campus to equip believers and inquirers to engage their academic work and campus life rather than to withdraw or to divide their lives into disconnected “intellectual” and “Christian” spheres. Students will read and write commentaries on non-Christian works on Critical Theory, Sexual liberation, Post-Structuralism, and Evolutionary Biology. They will also demonstrate the ability to hold the movements inspired by these texts up to the light of Scripture, explaining both the common grace insights and the biblically problematic claims being advanced. Class discussion will also address ways Christian students can handle opposition to the gospel inside and outside the secular university classroom. 2 credit hours.

Texts, Required to purchase:

Kearney, Richard, and Mara Rainwater, *The Continental Philosophy Reader* (Routledge, 2000), ISBN: 978-0815363132.
Nietzsche, Friedrich, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Oxford, 2009) ISBN 978-0199537082.
Morris, Tim, and Don Petcher, *Science & Grace* (CreateSpace, 2013) ISBN: 978-1491089873.

Texts, Required to download (from a free shared folder):

Derrida, *Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of Human Sciences* (1966).

YouTube clips, required watching:

PHILOSOPHY – Nietzsche, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHWbZmg2hzU>
The Frankfurt School, Critical Theory and How America Fell Victim to Europe's Progressive Ideas, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0KwdtCmvWg>
Modern Times: Camille Paglia & Jordan B Peterson, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-hIVnmUdXM>
The Four Horseman [sic] – Hitchens, Dawkins, Dennett, Harris [2007], <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7IHU28aR2E>
Why Evolution is True and Why People Still Don't Believe It (Jerry Coyne, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CW9G2YVtBYc>

Texts, Recommended:

Smith, James K. A., *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism* (Eerdmans, 2009).
Anderson, James N., *Hume* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 2019).

Written Assignments: Students will complete two of the following, observing the due dates specific to the two chosen. Selection of options and the details of interviewee and/or book title are **due July 27, 2019 by midnight.**

1. Final Exam distributed July 20, 2019, **due August 3, 2019 by email.**

Short answer and essay exam over the central distinctions, principles, issues, and cases in the readings, lectures and class discussions. Open book and notes; 2000 word maximum length.

2. Article Summary & Analysis, due August 17, 2019. (If a rough draft is submitted on or before August 10, the final draft will be due within 10 days of receiving comments from the instructor.)

2500-3000 word Summary of the principle claims and reasoning AND an Analysis of the internal and external merits of a journal article by a secular academic approved by the course instructor.

3. Interview and Report and (brief) Analysis of a non-Christian professor who openly discourages Christian convictions in class, due August 31, 2019. (If a rough draft is submitted on or before August 24, the final draft will be due within 10 days of receiving comments from the instructor.)

1500-2000 word report of the principal topics and claims from a 30-45 minute interview of a non-Christian professor AND a 750-word Analysis of the professor's likely impact on Christian students in the professor's classes.

Class Participation and in-class Analysis: Each student will make a brief presentation reporting on either a set of course syllabi or a short article published by a professor at a school or university where the student has/will/could serve as a campus minister. Attendance for class discussions and lectures will also contribute to this course expectation.

Grading: Grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

Written Assignment #1 (final draft).....	40%
Written Assignment #2 (final draft).....	40%
Participation (Attendance and in-class Analysis)...	20%

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments:

(Note: the readings and viewings listed here are valuable, but it is not essential that they be read/viewed prior to class discussion. Also: students are encouraged to form consortia or 2-4 members to share the reading/viewing load. This approach will be discussed in class on the first meeting day.)

- July 17 W** **The Pre-20th Century Foundation for Today's Academic "Givens"**
Reading: None required; but part I of Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals* would be helpful.
Viewing: PHILOSOPHY – Nietzsche
- July 18 R** **Critical Theory (Neo-Marxism) and the meaning of "Justice"**
Reading: Kearney & Rainwater: Part II (all except Althusser)
Viewing: The Frankfurt School, Critical Theory and How America Fell Victim to Europe's Progressive Ideas
- July 19 F** **Deconstructing Norms (of Religion, Sexuality, Society, etc.)**
Reading: Kearney & Rainwater: Part III (de Saussure, Lacan, Foucault, Kristeva, Irigaray)
Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" (in shared folder)
Viewing: Modern Times: Camille Paglia & Jordan B Peterson
- July 20 Sa** **Science, Scientism, and the Naturalistic Evolution**
Reading: Morris & Petcher, Part III
Viewing: The Four Horseman [sic] – Hitchens, Dawkins, Dennett, Harris [2007]
Why Evolution is True and Why People Still Don't Believe It (Jerry Coyne, 2012),
- July 27** **Selection of Assignment Choices Due (with details)**
- August 3** **Final Exam Due**
August 17 **Final Draft of Article Summary & Analysis Due**
August 31 **Final Draft of Interview & Analysis Due**

RTS Late Work/Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by

the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)