

COURSE SYLLABUS – PT514
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Boulevard
Jackson, MS 39209
601-923-1600

CHRISTIAN LIFE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

Winter 2019 (January 14-15)

Professor: Charles M. Wingard, D. Min.

E-mail: cwingard@rts.edu

Cell: 256-509-9284

Teaching Assistant: Jamie Peipon

E-mail: jamiepeipon@gmail.com

Time: Monday, January 14 (9am-5pm)

Tuesday, January 15 (9am-5pm)

Class Hours: 1

Syllabus Revised: September 22, 2018

COURSE PURPOSE

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

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible.

Allberry, Sam. *Is God anti-gay? And other questions about homosexuality, the Bible and same-sex attraction*. Purcelville, VA: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Anderson, Ryan T. *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2015.

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=aP2A6_2b6g8&t=88s
(The full series is available in the library and placed on reserve).

Noll, Mark A. *God and Race in American Politics: A Short History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Obergefell et al v. Hodges, http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. New York: Penguin Books, 1985.

Wells, David F. *The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1: Thinking Christianly about the Church's Place in American Culture

Reading: Wells (entire book)

Session 2: Thinking Christianly about Race

Reading and Video:

Noll (entire book)

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

"Eyes on the Prize (5): Mississippi, Is This America 1962-1964"

Session 3: Thinking Christianly about Marriage

Reading:

Allberry (entire book)

Obergefell et al. v. Hodges

Anderson (entire book)

Session 4: Thinking Christianly about Media Ecology

Reading: Postman (entire book)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory.

2. GRADES

Papers 50%

Final Exam 50%

3. PAPERS

You will submit four two-page papers on the books by Wells, Noll, Allberry, and Postman. Include a title page for each paper.

Formatting requirements: (a) Include a title page. (b) Use Times New Roman font and 12-point type. (c) Number pages in the body of the paper; do not number the title page. (d) Use one-inch margins on all four edges of the paper. (e) Lines must be double-spaced. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a letter grade reduction.

In your paper, you will provide the reader with (a) a summary of the book's contents, (b) the author's primary arguments, and (c) your evaluation.

All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 22, 2019. Papers must be posted on Canvas in pdf format. Do not email your papers to the TA or instructor. Papers will receive a letter grade reduction for each day late.

4. READINGS AND VIDEO

All required textbooks and video should be read and watched prior to class. Much class time is devoted to conversations about these materials

5. FINAL EXAM

Before the first class, final exam questions will be posted on Canvas. Students will want to keep these questions in mind as they read assigned texts. Proctored exams must be taken and submitted in Canvas by 11:59pm on February 22, 2019.

6. GRADING SCALE

97-100%	A
94-96%	A-
91-93%	B+
88-90%	B
86-87%	B-
83-85%	C+
80-82%	C
78-79%	C-
75-77%	D+
72-74%	D
70-71%	D-
0-69%	F

7. 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.

8. 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 on Canvas.

9. ETIQUETTE

Gentlemen may not wear caps or hats in the classroom.

10. OFFICE HOURS

My office is in the Dean Center attic. Stop by whenever the office door is open, or schedule an appointment.

11. CANVAS

Canvas is a tool that will be used to track student assignments and grades during the course of the semester. Students can access Canvas at <https://rts.instructure.com>. Students should check Canvas often, as announcements and updates to the syllabus will be posted there. Students should not expect e-mail updates for the class. Rather, any announcements (such as modifications to the syllabus) will be posted on Canvas.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012.
- Alvis, Jr., Joel L. *Religion & Race: Southern Presbyterians: 1946-1983*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994.
- Anderson, Devery S. *Emmett Till: The Murder That Shocked the World and Propelled the Civil Rights Movement*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2015.
- Ash, Christopher. *Marriage: Sex in the Service of God*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2003.
- Ash, Christopher. *Married for God: Making Your Marriage the Best It Can Be*. Nottingham, England: Inter-varsity Press, 2007.
- Blankenhorn, David. *Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem*. New York: Basic Books, 1995.
- Branch, Taylor. *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988.
- Branch, Taylor. *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.
- Branch, Taylor. *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years 1965-1968*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.
- Butterfield, Rosaria Champagne. *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ*. Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2015.
- Butterfield, Rosaria. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey Into Christian Faith*. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Crown & Covenant Publications, 2012.
- Carr, Nicholas G. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.
- Chappell, David L. *A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.
- Charron, Katherine Mellen. *Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

- Cone, James H. *A Black Theology of Liberation*. 1970. New York: Orbis Books, 2016.
- Dalrymple, Theodore. *Our Culture: What's Left of It.: The Mandarins and the Masses*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2005.
- Dattel, Gene. *Cotton and Race in the Making of America: The Human Costs of Economic Power*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2009.
- DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2015.
- Dupont, Carolyn Renée. *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*. New York: New York University Press, 2013.
- Eagles, Charles W. *Outside Agitator: Jon Daniels and the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2000.
- Eagles, Charles W. *The Price of Defiance: James Meredith and the Integration of Ole Miss*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.
- “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.
- Faust, Drew Gilpin. *The Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. New York: Vintage Books, 2008.
- Garrow, David J. *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference*. New York: HarperCollins, 1986.
- Genovese, Eugene D. and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese. *Slavery in White and Black: Class and Race in the Southern Slaveholders’ New World Order*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- George, Robert P. and Patrick Lee, *Conjugal Union: What Marriage Is and Why It Matters*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- George, Robert P. and Jen Bethke Elshtain, eds. *The Meaning of Marriage: Family, State, Market, & Moral*. Dallas: Spence Publishing Company, 2006.
- Haynes, Stephen R. *The Last Segregated Hour: The Memphis Kneel-Ins and the Campaign for Southern Church Desegregation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

- Hunter, James Davison. *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Farmer, Jr., James Oscar. *The Metaphysical Confederacy: James Henley Thornwell and the Synthesis of Southern Values*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1986.
- Johnson, Paul. *Modern Times: The World from the Twenties to the Nineties*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1992.
- King, Jr., Martin Luther and James J. Kilpatrick. A debate on “The Nation’s Future,” https://swap.stanford.edu/20141218225602/http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/primarydocuments/Vol5/26Nov1960_DebatewithJamesJ.KilpatrickonTheNation'sFuture.pdf
- Lewis, John with Michael D’Orso. *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir in the Movement*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.
- Lefebvre, Michael, ed. *The Gospel & Sexual Orientation: A Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America*. Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2012.
- Leovy, Janet. *Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.
- Lucas, Sean Michael. *For a Continuing Church: The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2015.
- Marsh, Charles. *God’s Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997.
- Daniel P. Moynihan, “The Negro Family: The Case for National Action,” Washington, D.C., Office of Policy Planning and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, 1965. <http://web.stanford.edu/~mrosenfe/Moynihan's%20The%20Negro%20Family.pdf>
- MacDonald, Heather. *The War on Cops: How the New Attack on Law and Order Makes Everyone Less Safe*. New York: Encounter Books, 2016
- Murray, Charles A. *Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010*. New York: Crown Forum, 2012.
- Myers, Ken. *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians and Popular Culture*. Turning Point Christian Worldview Series. Westchester, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1989.
- Plessy v. Ferguson*, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/163/537>
- Prichard, G.A. *Willow Creek Seeker Services: Evaluating a New Way of Doing Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.

- Rice, Condoleezza. *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*. New York: Crown Publishing Group, 2010.
- Riley, Jason L. *Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed*. New York: Encounter Books, 2014.
- Robinson, Eugene. *Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America*. New York: Doubleday 201-.
- Ryken, Leland. *The Liberated Imagination: Thinking Christianly About the Arts*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock, 2005, 1989.
- Shaw, Ed. *The Plausibility Problem: The Church and Same-Sex Attraction*. Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2015.
- Slade, Peter. *Open Friendship in a Closed Society: Mission Mississippi and a Theology of Friendship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Sowell, Thomas. *Black Rednecks and White Liberals*. San Francisco: Encounter, 2005.
- Stark, Rodney. *For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts, and the End of Slavery*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- Steele, Shelby. *Shame: How America's Past Sins Have Polarized Our Country*. New York: Basic Books, 2015.
- Stuntz, William J. *The Collapse of American Criminal Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 2011.
- Sullivan, Andrew. "I Used to Be a Human Being." New York Media. September 18, 2016. <http://nymag.com/selectall/2016/09/andrew-sullivan-technology-almost-killed-me.html>
- Thomas, Clarence. *My Grandfather's Son: A Memoir*. New York: Harper, 2007.
- Tyson, Timothy B. *The Blood of Emmett Till*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017.
- Vance, J.D. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*. New York: HarperCollins, 2016.
- Wax, Amy L. *Race, Wrongs, and Remedies: Group Justice in the 21st Century*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.
- Wells, David F. *Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

West, Cornell. *Race Matters: With a New Preface*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2001.