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
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.


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).


**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


“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)


