COURSE SYLLABUS – 01PT6270

Reformed Theological Seminary

5422 Clinton Boulevard

Jackson, MS 39209

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**HOT TOPICS IN PASTORAL MINISTRY**

Winter 2020 (January 8-9) Professor: Charles M. Wingard, D. Min. E-mail: [cwingard@rts.edu](mailto:cwingard@rts.edu)  
 Cell: 256-509-9284

Teaching Assistant: Jamie Peipon E-mail: [jamiepeipon@gmail.com](mailto:jamiepeipon@gmail.com)

Time: Wednesday, January 8 (8am-4pm)

Thursday, January 9 (8am-3pm)

Class Hours: 1   
Syllabus Revised: September 27, 2019

COURSE PURPOSE

A class designed to assist pastors to think biblically about race, human sexuality, and media ecology.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible.

Anderson, Ryan T. *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment.* New York: Encounter Books,2018.

“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.

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

Twenge, Jean M. *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy - and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood - and What That Means for the Rest of Us.* New York: Atria Books, 2018.

Yuan, Christopher. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story*. New York: Multnomah, 2018.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1: Thinking Christianly about the Race

Reading and Video:

Noll, *God and Race in American Politics* (entire book) “Eyes on the Prize (5): Mississippi, Is This America 1962-1964”

Session 2: Thinking Christianly about Human Sexuality  
 Reading:Anderson, *When Harry Became Sally* (entire book)

Yuan, *Holy Sexuality* (entire book)

Session 3: Thinking Christianly about Media Ecology   
 Reading: Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (entire book)

Twenge, *iGen* (entire book)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE   
Class attendance is mandatory.

2. GRADES   
Papers 90%  
Final Exam 10%

**3.** **PAPERS**You will submit five two-page papers on the books by Noll, Anderson, Yuan, Postman, and Twenge. 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 21, 2020. 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**The final exam must be submitted in Canvas by 11:59pm on February 21, 2020.

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**

**Race**

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.

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.

*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/347/483>

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.

Diangelo, Robin.*White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racisim.* Beacon Press, 2018.

Dattel, Gene. *Cotton and Race in the Making of America: The Human Costs of Economic Power.* Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2009.

Dattel, Gene. *Reckoning with Race: America’s Failure.* New York: Encounter Books, 2018.

Dray, Phillip. *At the Hands of Persons Unknown: The Lynching of Black America.* New York: Modern Library, 2002.

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.

Farmer, Jr., James Oscar. *The Metaphysical Confederacy: James Henley Thornwell and the Synthesis of Southern Values.* Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1986.

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.

Haynes, Stephen R.[*The Last Segregated Hour: The Memphis Kneel-Ins and the Campaign for Southern Church Desegregation*](http://www.amazon.com/Last-Segregated-Hour-Kneel-Ins-Desegregation/dp/0195395050/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1434807001&sr=8-1&keywords=the+last+segregated+hour)*.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

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.

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.

*Plessy v. Ferguson*, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/163/537>

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 2010.

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.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race.* New York: Basic Books, 2017.

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.

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

**Human Sexuality:**

Alberry, 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.

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.*

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.

DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2015.

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.

Lefebvre, Michael, ed. *The Gospel & Sexual Orientation: A Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.* Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2012.

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

Shaw, Ed. *The Plausibility Problem: The Church and Same-Sex Attraction.* Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2015.

**Media Ecology**

Aiken, Mary. *The Cyber Effect: An Expert in Cyberpsychology Explains How Technology Is Shaping Our Children, Our Behavior, and Our Values- and What We Can Do About It.* Spiegel & Grau, 2016.

Carr, Nicholas G. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.

Fesko, John V. *The Christian and Technology.* EP Books, forthcoming 2019.

Newport, Cal. *Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World.* New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2016.

Reinke, Tony. *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2017.

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>

**General Readings in American Culture**

Dalrymple, Theodore. *Our Culture: What’s Left of It.: The Mandarins and the Masses.* Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2005.

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.

Johnson, Paul. *Modern Times: The World from the Twenties to the Nineties.* New York: HarperPerennial, 1992.

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.

Prichard, G.A. *Willow Creek Seeker Services: Evaluating a New Way of Doing Church.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.

Rothman, Noah. *Unjust: Social Justice and the Unmaking of America.* Gateway Editions, 2019.

Ryken, Leland. *The Liberated Imagination: Thinking Christianly About the Arts*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock, 2005, 1989.

Stuntz, William J. *The Collapse of American Criminal Justice.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 2011.

Wells, David F. *Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**   * **Strong** * **Moderate** * **Minimal** * **None** | **Mini-Justification** |
| **Articulation**  **(oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | All written work must demonstrate good style, grammar, and syntax. |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Moderate | Controversial issues will be approached through a study of the biblical text. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Students will study controversial issues in the light of the Westminster Standards. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Students will study the connection between personal holiness and speaking lovingly and faithfully to controversial issues.. |
| **Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | Students will address contemporary issues in a manner informed by scripture and Reformed theology, and sensitive to the broader Christian church. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong | Students will approach controversial issues with both a clear articulation of biblical truth as understood in the Westminster Standards and with gracious speech. |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Strong | Students must use language that is accessible to ordinary congregations. |