



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

Course MSS790A – Biblical Perspectives on Social Justice Block -- Fall 2010

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information. Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Please do not call between
10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Catalog Description

This course is designed to examine issues of social justice and injustice from biblical, theological and sociological perspectives and to consider practical implications and courses of action for Christians in Christian community.

Course Outcomes

The outcomes expected for students taking this course include:

- 1) Increased knowledge and awareness of the nature of social systems and related issues of social justice;
- 2) Increased understanding of justice and injustice from biblical and theological perspectives; and,
- 3) Increased capability of students' ability to consider potential Christian responses to injustice in the context of pastoral ministry taking into account ecclesial and personal courses of action.

These outcomes will be demonstrated through the quality of the student's book reviews/critiques, contributions to class discussions, class presentation, and final course project.

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

This course may be taken in fulfillment of the COSAC competency requirement for the Compassionate Ministries Module. The Competencies required with the corresponding means of how they are fulfilled are as follows:

- CP 28 Ability to prepare, organize and deliver a biblically sound basic scheme for compassionate practice in culturally appropriate ways, using appropriate techniques and skills
- Fulfilled through reading assignments, class presentation and course project.
- CP 29 Ability to develop and utilize existing ministry forms to compassionate ministry (such as community assessment, networking, ministry resource development, social programming, etc.) by which individuals, families, and congregations may be formed into Christlikeness
- Fulfilled through class discussions and course project.
- CP 30 Ability to assess and implement emerging approaches to compassionate ministry in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives
- Fulfilled through reading assignments, class discussions and final project.

Required Texts & Course Materials

- Benefiel, Ron. *Christian Holiness and the Wesleyan Mission of Mercy: The Character of the People of God in the World.* (17 pp.)
- Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination.* (Second Edition). Fortress Press. 2001. (176 pp.)
- Cavanaugh, William T. *Torture and Eucharist: Theology, Politics, and the Body of Christ.* Wiley-Blackwell. 1998. (288 pp.)
- Nouwen, Henri J.M., Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A. Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life.* Darton, Longman and Todd. 2008. (160 pp.)
- Sandel, Michael J. *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2009. (320 pp.)
- Sider, Ronald J. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity.* Thomas Nelson. 2005. (352 pp.)
- Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus.* Eerdmans. 1994. (270 pp.)

Recommended Texts & Course Materials

- Blomberg, Craig (Editor), Thomas R. Schriener (Editor), James R. Beck (Editor), Ann L. Bowman, Linda L. Bellevue, Craig Keener. *Two Views of Women and Ministry.* Zondervan. 2001. (372 pp.)
- Blue, Kevin. *Practical Justice.* Inter-Varsity Press. 2006. (143 pp.)
- Brendlinger, Irv. *Social Justice through the Eyes of Wesley: John Wesley's Theological Challenge to Slavery.* Sola Scriptura Ministries International. 2006. (292 pp.)
- Campolo, Tony. *Let Me Tell You a Story: Life Lessons from Unexpected Places and Unlikely People.* Thomas Nelson. 1960. (224 pp.)
- *Letters to a Young Evangelical.* Basic Books. 2005. (224 pp.)
- Campolo, Tony and Michael Battle. *The Church Enslaved: A Spirituality of Racial Reconciliation.* Fortress Press. 2005. (138 pp.)
- Cavanaugh, William T. *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire.* Eerdmans. 2008. (103 pp.)
- *The Myth of Religious Violence: Secular Ideology and the Roots of Modern Conflict.* Oxford University Press. 2009. (296 pp.)
- Claiborne, Shane. *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals.* Zondervan. 2008. (348 pp.)

- Emerson, Michael O. and Christian Smith. *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. Oxford Press. 2001. (224 pp.)
- Epstein, Helen. *The Invisible Cure: Why We are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa*. Picador. 2008. (352 pp.)
- Grenz, Stanley J. and Denise Muir Kiesbo. *Women in the Church: A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry*. Inter-Varsity Press. 1995. (233 pp.)
- Gutierrez, Gustavo. *On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*. Orbis Books. 1987. (160 pp.)
- Harper, Lisa Sharon. *Evangelical (Does not Equal) Republican... or Democrat*. The New Press. 2008. (228 pp.)
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics*. Notre Dame Press. 1984. (179 pp.)
- Hauerwas, Stanley and Jean Vanier. *Living Gently in a Violent World: Witness of Weakness*. Inter-Varsity Press. 2008. (115 pp.)
- Heitzenrater, Richard P. (Editor). *The Poor and the People Called Methodist: 1720-1999*. Kingswood. 2002. (193 pp.)
- Hilfiker, David. *Not All of Us Are Saints*. Hill and Wang. 2004. 272 pp.
- Ilibagiza, Immaculee. *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. Hay House. 2007. (215 pp.)
- Jacobsen, Eric O. and Eugene Peterson. *Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith*. Brazos Press. 2003. (190 pp.)
- Jennings, Theodore W. Jr. *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*. Abingdon. 1990. (236 pp.)
- Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. Harper Perennial Press. 1996. (304 pp.)
- *Ordinary Resurrections: Children in the Years of Hope*. Harper Perennial Press. 2001. (400 pp.)
- Kraybill, Donald. *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. (25th Anniversary Edition). Herald Press. 2003. (311 pp.)
- Law, Eric H.F. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*. Chalice Press. 1993. (131 pp.)
- Marsh, Charles. *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice -- From the Civil Rights Movement to Today*. Basic Books. 2005. (292 pp.)
- Marquardt, Manfred. *John Wesley's Social Ethics*. Wipf and Stock. 2001. (206 pp.)
- McKibben, Bill. *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. St. Martin's Griffin. 2008. (272 pp.)
- Orbinski, James. M.D. *An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action for the Twenty-First Century*. Walker and Co. 2009. (448 pp.)
- Perkins, John. *Beyond Charity*. Baker Books. 1993. (192 pp.)
- *Let Justice Roll Down*. Regal Books. 2006. (219 pp.)
- Reed, Rodney L. *Holy with Integrity: The Unity of Personal and Social Ethics in the Holiness Movement, 1880-1910*. Schmul Publishing Co. 2003. (288 pp.)
- Sider, Ronald J. *Just Generosity: A New Vision for Overcoming Poverty in America*. (Second Edition) Baker Books. 2007. (352pp.)
- Smith, Timothy L. *Revivalism and Social Reform: American Protestantism on the Eve of the Civil War*. Abingdon. 1957. (237 pp.)
- Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in the Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* Thomas Nelson. 2009. (320 pp.)
- Storkey, Alan. *Jesus and Politics: Confronting the Powers*. Baker. 2005. (287 pp.)
- Wink, Walter. *The Powers that Be: Theology for a New Millenium*. Galilee Publishers. 1999. (240 pp.)

Course Outline

The texts will be discussed in class in the following order:

- 1) Sider, Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger.
- 2) Sandel, Justice.
- 3) Nouwen, et. al., Compassion.
- 4) Brueggemann, Prophetic Imagination.
- 5) Yoder, Politics of Jesus.
- 6) Cavanaugh, Torture and Eurcharist.
- 7) Benefiel, Christian Holiness and the Wesleyan Mission of Mercy.

Course Assignments & Requirements

Students will be expected to:

- 1) Read all assigned course texts and submit a 3-4 page review/critique of each.
- 2) Attend all class sessions and participate in class discussions especially in relation to the assigned readings. (Book review/critiques are due before the beginning of class the day the text is scheduled for discussion).
- 3) Lead (or participate as part of a small group) in a class presentation of one of the books from the recommended reading list.
- 4) Submit a 15-20 page research project on a related subject taking into account course readings (and discussions).

Note: Each of these assignments is designed to address the course outcomes listed above.

Class Presentation

Each student will present (either personally or as part of a group) to the class a book from the recommended reading list. Each presentation will be allotted approximately one hour of class time. Book selections will be determined on the first day of class.

Course Project

Each student will submit a 15-20 page research paper. The due date for the paper is November 30, 2010. Topics should be directly related to issues of social justice and should be approached both from biblical and theological perspectives. Practical implications for the church with recommendations for appropriate programmatic responses should also be considered. Interview sources in addition to bibliographic sources are desirable. Examples of topics include poverty, race, gender discrimination, immigration, the global economy, environmental issues, homelessness, homosexuality, education, pacifism and/or just war theory, and the relationship between church and state.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	25
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	0
Reading	63
Writing	48
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	12
Exams & Quizzes	0
TOTAL	148

Method of Submitting Assignments

Written assignments are to be submitted through MOODLE.

Form and Style Expectations

Students are advised to use Turabian in the writing of their final projects.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Assignments that are turned in after the due date will automatically be reduced in grade unless an extension has been granted by the professor.

Course Grading

Grades will be based on the student's satisfactory participation in and completion of course requirements according to the following percentages:

Book Reviews/Critiques	40%
Course Project	40%
Class Presentation	10%
Class Participation	10%

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
9/14		Sider, Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger.
9/21		Sandel, Justice.
10/5		Nouwen, et. al., Compassion.
10/12		Brueggemann, Prophetic Imagination.
10/26		Yoder, Politics of Jesus.
11/9		Cavanaugh, Torture and Eucharist.
11/30		Course Project