

## Syllabus

# SENIOR SEMINAR FALL 2013

## JUST ENGAGEMENT: CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Fall Term 2013  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**Professors:** Clifton Kirkpatrick and  
Scott Williamson

**Senior Seminar description:** The Senior Seminar focuses on an area of theological study related to the practice of ministry, providing M.Div. students in their final year of study an opportunity to integrate the various elements of their theological education in a way that contributes to the ongoing discernment of their vocation. Students will produce a substantial essay or project that brings the methods of theological study to bear on problems and opportunities in ministry and that expresses the student's theological vision. The topic for the Fall 2013 seminar is *Just Engagement: Christian Ethics and International Affairs*.

This seminar will provide an opportunity for senior students to integrate theological study with pastoral practice and build their capacity for contextual theological-ethical interpretation and analysis. Students will:

1. Bring their passions for ministry and theological reflection into productive conversation with religious and cultural traditions;
2. Gain practice in collaborative theological methods;
3. Refine their skills of constructive theological and ethical reflection and expression;
4. Continue processes of vocational discernment and that are theologically grounded, ethically informed, and that draw on several theological disciplines (biblical studies, historical and constructive theology, ethics, practical theology).

**Course Description:** This Senior Seminar will aid students in integrating their studies in biblical and theological ethics over the course of their seminary studies and in applying those insights to critical issues in international affairs. This course is based on the premise that concerns related to genocide in Syria, conflicts between Israel and Palestine, the growing global gap between the rich and the poor, the proliferation of nuclear arms, the increasingly obvious impacts of global warming, and unjust immigration laws are all, at their core, not only political problems but also moral and ethical problems that can be best addressed by a pastoral practice of "just engagement." This course will review the resurgence of religion in international affairs and various biblical, theological, and ethical approaches to engaging global issues of justice to aid in shaping a faithful Christian witness in relation to such issues as ecological sustainability, human rights, economic justice, global migration, and war and peace.

**Learning Goals and Outcomes:** Through successful completion of this senior seminar students will have gained and demonstrated competence in relation to at least the following Student Learning Objectives identified for the M.Div. program at Louisville Seminary.

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to think theologically, strategically, imaginatively, and contextually about global ethical issues. (SLO 8)
2. Students will be prepared to provide public leadership. (SLO 14)
3. Students will be able to articulate orally and in writing their own theological perspective, including a theology of ministry, mindful of their own distinctive ecclesial tradition and the global, multicultural, multi-religious context of contemporary ministry. (QEPSLO 2)

**Course Requirements:**

- (1) **Preparation and Participation:** Students are expected to be regular in class attendance, to complete all assigned readings, and to actively participate in discussion both in plenary sessions and in smaller groups. Additionally, students are expected to keep a journal of their reflections on course themes, readings, discussion, as well as current events and progress toward the final project. This journal will not be graded, and therefore has no prescribed length, but will be an indispensable part of our classroom conversation. Please write in your journal each week and bring it to class. The journal can include your questions about specific readings, as well as more general questions, observations, insights, responses to what we have discussed in class, theological inquiry, etc. The professors will ask that you refer to your journals on occasion, as the class investigates various course themes. What you include in your journal is entirely up to you, no one else will read it, so long as you reflect on what the course raises for you.
- (2) **Mid-term Paper on Basic Perspective:** Students will be asked to prepare an 8-10 page paper articulating their basic biblical, theological, ethical perspectives with which they will approach international justice concerns and which they will use to analyze particular issues and challenges related to global justice and well-being. Students are encouraged as part of this articulation to offer a critique of the work done in these areas by the professors in the draft manuscript on *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community*. Students will be asked to share these papers with one another and be ready to discuss them in class. [SLO 8 and QEPSLO 2] **Due Friday, October 18, 2013 and discussed in class on Monday, October 21 and 28, 2013 .**
- (3) **A Final Project on a Contemporary Global Issue:** Students will be asked to submit both a project and explanatory final paper on a critical contemporary global issue, and suggest strategies for the Christian community to address such an issue. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate an approach to public leadership on the selected issue. Writing from the perspective of what students would want to be sure was emphasized on these issues if they were writing a book on Christian Ethics and International Affairs is encouraged. The essay is intended to be a theological and ethical defense of the project. **Projects will be presented in the class sessions related to global issues during the five weeks from November 4 through December 2, 2013.** [SLO 8, SLO 14, and QEPSLO 2].

### Required Texts:

- Kirkpatrick, Clifton and Williamson, Scott. ***Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community*** (a work in progress on CAMS)
- Toft, Monica Duffy; Philpott, Daniel; and Shah, Timothy Samuel. ***God's Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics***. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011. ISBN: 0393932737
- Hoover, Dennis and Johnston, Douglas, Editors, ***Religion and Foreign Affairs: Essential Readings***, Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2012. ISBN: 1602582424
- One of the following three texts: 1. Reinhold Niebuhr, ***The Irony of American History*** (1952); 2. John Courtney Murray, S.J., ***We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition*** (1960) ([http://woodstock.georgetown.edu/library/Murray/whitt\\_index.htm](http://woodstock.georgetown.edu/library/Murray/whitt_index.htm)); 3. John Howard Yoder, ***The Politics of Jesus*** (1972)
- Also, for the duration of the course students are urged to read the monthly newsletter from the "Religion" portal on the **Council on Foreign Relations website**, <http://www.cfr.org/issue/434/religion.html>.

### Selected Bibliography:

- Bacon, David, ***How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants***, Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2008
- Bread for the World Institute, ***2013 Hunger Report*** at <http://www.bread.org/institute/>
- Brubaker, Pamela and Mshana, Rogate. ***Justice, Not Greed***, World Council of Churches, 2010. ISBN: 2825415480
- Center for American Progress, ***Pursuing the Global Common Good***, <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/issues/2007/10/pdf/GlobalCommonGood.pdf>
- Chenoweth, Erica and Stephan, Maria J. ***Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict***, New York: Columbia University Press, 2011. ISBN 9780231156837
- Collier, Paul, ***The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be done about It***, New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 0195373383
- Council on Foreign Relations, ***U.S. Immigration Policy***, New York, NY: 2009
- Dionne, E.J. and Elstain, Jean Bethke, ***Liberty and Power: A Dialogue on Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy in an Unjust World***, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 2004. ISBN: 0815735456
- Juergensmeyer, Mark, ***Terror in the Mind of God***, Berkley, CA: University of CA, 2003. ISBN: 0520240111
- Levine, Steve, "Can We Survive the New Golden Age of Oil?" in *Foreign Policy*, June 5, 2012
- Niebuhr, Reinhold, ***The Irony of American History***, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2008. ISBN: 0226583988
- Nye, Joseph S., ***The Future of Power***, Jackson, TN: Public Affairs, 2011. ISBN: 1610390695
- Pope John XXIII, ***Pacem in Terris***, New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1963. ISBN: 0143036580

- Sacks, Jeffrey D., *The End of Poverty*, London: Penguin Books, 2005.
- Thistlewaite, Susan Brooks. *Abrahamic Alternatives to War*, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2008
- Thistlewaite, Susan Brooks, *Interfaith Just Peacemaking Jewish, Christian, and Muslim*. Hampshire, England, Palgrave MacMillan, 2011. ISBN: 0230339891
- Weiss, Thomas G., *Humanitarian Intervention*, Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2012.
- World Communion of Reformed Churches, *Accra Confession* and *New International Financial and Economic Architecture*, [www.WCRC.ch](http://www.WCRC.ch)
- Yoder, John Howard, *The War of the Lamb*, Ada, MI, Brazos Press, 2009. ISBN: 1587432609  
Eric Patterson, editor, *Christianity and Power Politics Today*, Hampshire, England, Palgrave MacMillan, 2008. ISBN: 0230602649
- "A Common Word between Us and You," <http://www.acommonword.com/>

### Course Calendar

- Sept. 9:      **Introduction to the course, to one another, to the discipline of theological ethics, and to why International Affairs is an important arena for Christian Ethics and the Church**
- Barry Rubin, "Religion and International Affairs," in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 56
  - Dennis R. Hoover and Douglas M. Johnston, "Religion and the Global Agenda: From the Margins to the Mainstream?" *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 1
  - Susan Hoeber Rudolph, "Dehomogenizing Religious Formations," chapter nine in *Transitional Religion and Fading States*.
  - Philip Jenkins, "The Next Christianity" in *The Atlantic*, October 2002, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/print/2002/10/the-next-christianity/302591/>
  - Clifton Kirkpatrick and Scott Williamson, *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community* (a working draft available on CAMS), Introduction
- Sept. 16      **Christian discourse on foreign policy during World War II and the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Christian Realism, Pacifism, and Natural Theology approaches.** (Please read one of the following books):
- Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History* (1952)
  - John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus* (1972)
  - John Courtney Murray, S.J., *We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition* (1960)
  - Clifton Kirkpatrick and Scott Williamson, *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community* (a working draft available on CAMS), chapter three
- Sept. 23      **Exploration of biblical themes for a Christian ethic for just engagement of the world.**

- Clifton Kirkpatrick and Scott Williamson, *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community* (a working draft available on CAMS), chapter two

Sept. 30

**Biblical themes ➡ Ethical Principles ➡ Practices of Just Engagement** (including review

- Clifton Kirkpatrick and Scott Williamson, *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community* (a working draft available on CAMS), chapter two.
- John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus*, Chapter 10: “Let Every Soul Be Subject: Romans 13 and the Authority of the State.”
- C.C. Pecknold, *Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History*, Chapter 2, “God’s New City.”

Oct. 7

**The resurgence of religion in international affairs at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Is it good for the world? Has it enhanced religious freedom?**

- Monica Duffy Toft, Daniel Philpott, and Timothy Samuel Shah, *God’s Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics*
- Clifton Kirkpatrick and Scott Williamson, *Just Engagement: A Public Theology for Global Community* (a working draft available on CAMS), chapter one

Oct. 14

Research and Study Week

Oct. 21

Presentation/Sharing/Discussion of student papers on basic ethical perspectives toward global issues in small groups – first session

Oct. 28

Presentation/Sharing/Discussion of student papers on basic ethical perspectives toward global issues in small groups – second session

Nov. 4

Major global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century #1: **Human Rights and Gender Justice**

- Katherine Marshall, “Development, Religion, and Women’s Roles in Contemporary Societies,” in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 42
- Paul A. Brink, “Debating International Human Rights: The ‘Middle Ground’ for Religious Participants,” in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 49
- Kapyra Kaoma, “Exporting the Anti-Gay Movement” in *The American Prospect*, April, 2012. (on CAMS)
- United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, “Overview of Tier 1 and Tier 2” from *2013 Annual Report*, pp. 6-11,  
[http://www.uscirtf.gov/images/2013%20USCIRF%20Annual%20Report%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.uscirtf.gov/images/2013%20USCIRF%20Annual%20Report%20(2).pdf)
- Salil Shetty, “Human Rights Know No Borders” in the 2013 Annual Report of Amnesty International, pp. 1-13.  
[http://takeaction.amnestyusa.org/atf/cf/%7B4abebe75-41bd-4160-91dd-a9e121f0eb0b%7D/AIR2013\\_ENGLISH.PDF](http://takeaction.amnestyusa.org/atf/cf/%7B4abebe75-41bd-4160-91dd-a9e121f0eb0b%7D/AIR2013_ENGLISH.PDF)

- United Nations, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

Nov. 11

Major global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century #2: **Global Migration**

- David Bacon, *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*, chapters three (“Development and Migration”) and eight (“Whose New World Order?”)
- World Council of Churches, “The Other is My Neighbor: Developing an Ecumenical Response to Migration” (to be available on CAMS)
- National Council of Churches, “Ecumenical Resources for Immigration Ministries,” [www.nccusa.org/immigration/](http://www.nccusa.org/immigration/) (click on to the “Statements and Policies” button and read the official policy of your denomination concerning immigration reform.

Nov. 18

Major global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century #3: **Pacifism, Just War, Just Peace, and the Responsibility to Protect**

- Marc Gopin, “Religion as Destroyer and Creator of Peace: A Postmortem on Failed Peace Processes,” in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 30
- J. Bryan Hehir, “The Just War Ethic: Protecting the Global Common Good” in *Pursuing the Global Common Good*, pp. 17-29, <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/issues/2007/10/pdf/JustWarGCG.pdf>
- John Howard Yoder, “Just War Tradition: Is it Credible?” in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 15
- *Interfaith Just Peacemaking*, edited by Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, chapter 1, “Support Nonviolent Direct Action” (CAMS hyperlink)
- Barack Obama, “The Future of our Fight Against Terrorism,” at [http://www.cfr.org/counterterrorism/president-obamas-speech-national-defense-university-future-our-fight-against-terrorism-may-2013/p30771?cid=emc-RW13\\_BCK-Obama\\_Speech-062413](http://www.cfr.org/counterterrorism/president-obamas-speech-national-defense-university-future-our-fight-against-terrorism-may-2013/p30771?cid=emc-RW13_BCK-Obama_Speech-062413)
- World Council of Churches, “Vulnerable Populations at Risk: Statement on the Responsibility to Protect,” <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/assembly/2006-porto-alegre/1-statements-documents-adopted/international-affairs/report-from-the-public-issues-committee/responsibility-to-protect>

Nov. 25

Major global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century #4: **Economic and Ecological Justice for a Sustainable World** (including the Millennial Development Goals)

- Sallie McFague, “New House Rules: Christianity, Economics, and Planetary Living,” in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 40

- World Communion of Reformed Churches, *Accra Confession* ([http://www.wcrc.ch/sites/default/files/ACCRA\\_Pamphlet.pdf](http://www.wcrc.ch/sites/default/files/ACCRA_Pamphlet.pdf)) and *New International Financial and Economic Architecture* (<http://www.wcrc.ch/sites/default/files/SaoPauloStatement.pdf>)
- Bread for the World Institute, *Within Reach: Global Development Goals*, Executive Summary and Introduction, pp. 3-31, [http://files.bread.org/institute/hunger-report-2013.pdf?\\_utma=1.1917342102.1370491949.1370491949.1370880474.2&\\_utmb=1.1.10.1370880474&\\_utmc=1&\\_utmx=-&\\_utmz=1.1370491949.1.1.utmcsr=\(direct\)|utmccn=\(direct\)|utmcmd=\(none\)&\\_utmv=-&\\_utmk=76799509](http://files.bread.org/institute/hunger-report-2013.pdf?_utma=1.1917342102.1370491949.1370491949.1370880474.2&_utmb=1.1.10.1370880474&_utmc=1&_utmx=-&_utmz=1.1370491949.1.1.utmcsr=(direct)|utmccn=(direct)|utmcmd=(none)&_utmv=-&_utmk=76799509)

## Dec. 2

Major global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century #5: **Building the Beloved Community in a religiously plural world.**

- Madeleine Albright, “Faith and Diplomacy in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 57
- Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” in *Religion and Foreign Affairs*, chapter 21
- Letter from Muslim Scholars and Religious Leaders, *A Common Word Between Us and You*, <http://www.acommonword.com/the-acw-document/>
- Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, *A Common Word for the Common Good* (on CAMS), <http://www.acommonword.com/category/site/christian-responses/>. (When you reach this page indexing Christian responses, scroll down to # 58 from the Archbishop of Canterbury and click that one to get the Archbishop’s response.)
- Browse the website of the World Conference of Religions for Peace, <http://www.religionsforpeace.org/>

## **Policies of LPTS:**

### **Inclusive Language:**

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities.

Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible’s images for God. See for further assistance,

[http://www.lpts.edu/Academic\\_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp](http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp).

### **Academic Honesty:**

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; the Student Handbook, p. 19.

**Special Accommodations:**

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

**Citation Policy:**

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides: Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

**Attendance Policy:**

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. Where an absence is unavoidable, students should if possible consult with the instructors in advance. In any case, they should be in communication with them no more than 24 hours after the class session. Multiple unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade; missing 3 sessions or more may result in failing the course.