

CHRISTIAN VIEWS OF THE JUST SOCIETY

Schedule and Associated Readings

Dr. David P. Gushee

Monday, 19 July

PART ONE: BIBLICAL ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THEOLOGY

- Session 1 The Social Ethics of the Old Testament (Creation and Law)
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Desire of the Nations*, ch. 1
Second Reading: Birch, *Let Justice Roll Down*, chs. 3-5
Seminar Paper:
- Session 2 The Social Ethics of the Old Testament (History, Prophets, Wisdom)
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Desire*, ch. 2
Second Reading: Birch, *Let Justice Roll Down*, chs. 6-9
Seminar Paper:
- Session 3 The Social Ethics of the New Testament (Jesus and the Kingdom)
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Desire*, ch. 3
Second Reading: Hays, *Moral Vision of the NT*, chs. 3-6
Recommended: Stassen/Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics* (esp. ch. 1)
Seminar Paper:
- Session 4 The Social Ethics of the New Testament (Other NT Voices)
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Desire*, ch. 4-5
Second Reading: Hays, *Moral Vision*, chs. 1-2, 8
Seminar Paper:
- Session 5 Discussion: Biblical Legacies for Christian Political Theology

PART TWO: HISTORIC TRAJECTORIES OF CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Tuesday, 20 July

- Session 6 Christian Political Thought in the Patristic Age
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Sourcebook*, pt. I
Seminar Paper:
- Session 7 Christian Political Thought after Constantine
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Sourcebook*, pt. II-III
Second Reading: Hoelzl/Ward, *Religion and Political Thought*, chs.1-3
Seminar Paper:
- Session 8 Reformation and Radical Christian Political Thought
Required Reading: O'Donovan, *Sourcebook*, pt. V

Second Reading: Hoelzl/Ward, *Religion and Political Thought*, ch. 4
Seminar Paper:

PART THREE: MODERN IDEOLOGIES, THEIR IMPACT, AND HUMAN RESPONSE

Session 9 Liberalism and Democracy
Required Reading: Koysis, *Political Visions and Illusions*, chs. 2,5
Second Reading: Hoelzl/Ward, *Religion and Political Thought*, chs.8-11
Seminar Paper:

Session 10 Conservatism and Nationalism
Required Reading: Koysis, *Political Visions*, chs. 3-4
Seminar Paper:

Wednesday, 21 July

Session 11 Utopianism and Socialism
Required Reading: Koysis, *Political Visions*, ch. 6; *Utopia Reader*, ch. 6
Second Reading: Hoelzl/Ward, *Religion and Political Thought*, chs. 12,14
Seminar Paper:

Session 12 Nazism and the Seduction of a Nation
Required Reading: Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, chs. 1-2
Seminar Paper:

Session 13 Christian Complicity and the Holocaust
Required Reading: Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, chs. 3-4
Recommended: Gushee, *Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust*
Seminar Paper:

Session 14 Postwar: United Nations and Human Rights after Auschwitz and Hiroshima
Required Reading: Regan, *Theology and Boundary Discourse of Human Rights*, chs. 1-3
Seminar Paper:

Session 15 Liberation Theology and Dignity for the Marginalized
Required Reading: Regan, *Theology and Boundary Discourse of Human Rights*, chs. 4-5
Seminar Paper:

PART FOUR: CONTEMPORARY RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Thursday, 22 July

Session 16 Catholic and Evangelical Resources for Christian Political Theology
Required Reading: Koysis, *Political Visions*, ch. 8-9
Second Reading: Hilborn, *Movement for Change*
Seminar Paper:

Session 17 20th Century American Protestant "Social Christianity"

Required Reading: Dorrien, *Soul in Society*
Seminar Paper:

PART FIVE: CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN POLITICAL ETHICS

- Session 18 Theoretical Touchpoints for Christian Political Ethics
Required Reading: Coleman, *Christian Political Ethics*, parts I
Second Reading: Mott, *Biblical Ethics and Social Change, Perspective on Political Thought*; HR Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture*; Lebacqz, *Six Theories of Justice*; O'Donovan, *Ways of Judgment*
- Session 19 Perennial Issues in Christian Perspective: Church/State and Economics
Required Reading: Wogaman, *Christian Perspectives on Politics*, especially chs. 13-14
Second Reading: Coleman, *Christian Political Ethics*, pt II, IV; Stackhouse, *Covenant and Commitments*
Seminar Paper:
- Session 20 Perennial Issues in Christian Perspective: Multiculturalism/Inclusiveness, Criminal Justice, War and Peace
Required Reading: Wogaman, *Christian Perspectives*, chs. 15-17
Second Reading: Coleman, *Christian Political Ethics*, pt III, V
Seminar Paper:
- Friday, 23 July Towards a Good Society in Australia (Benson)