

Summer 2007/Pasadena
Two-week Intensive: July 16–27
ET513
Gushee

ET513: PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL ETHICS. David Gushee.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office Hours:

DESCRIPTION: An exploration of the relationship between biblical faith and contemporary social and political life, with special attention to current patterns of evangelical engagement with politics in the United States. The course will survey the diverse forms of evangelical political engagement as well as the varied content of evangelical views on selected public issues, including human rights, the environment, sexuality and family issues, church-state concerns, and war. It will also reflect on the current backlash against evangelical engagement with politics, and point to resources for evangelicals that are provided by Catholic and Jewish approaches to public life.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: *Knowledge:* to increase understanding of contemporary evangelical social and political engagement and the cultural reaction it is currently evoking. *Skills:* to foster an improved ability to address diverse Christian and non-Christian audiences on morally sensitive social and political issues of our day. *Attitudes:* to deepen both confidence and humility in relating biblical faith to the public life of modern societies.

RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY: Every time ministers preach, teach, and counsel within the church on issues of sociopolitical importance, and every time ministers speak to the media, talk with people of other faiths or no faith, and advocate for their views in the political process, the relevance of the materials of this course will manifest itself.

COURSE FORMAT: The class will meet daily for four-hour sessions for two weeks. Lectures will be mixed with seminar-type discussions, in which students will be expected to participate based on careful completion of the assigned reading.

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

INCOMPLETES: Incompletes are to be granted only when your work in a course has not been completed due to extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are major, unplanned, unanticipated, and unavoidable disruptions which make it impossible for you to complete a course within the quarter. Examples of such circumstances are personal illness of more than a brief duration, illness in the family that has required your attention, death in the family, a personal or family crisis of a traumatic nature, or an unplanned and unexpected increase in job

responsibilities. Examples of reasons which are not considered acceptable are class load (at Fuller and/or elsewhere), incomplete work from previous quarters, general overload of classes (including internships) and work, preparation for denominational exams or other special exams, general church or job responsibilities or opportunities, English language difficulties, logistical problems (computer, typist, etc.), difficulty of the class, or redoing work already submitted. Incompletes are not permitted for the purpose of allowing you to improve your grade in a course.

A grade of Incomplete is not to be given on the basis that the design of the course requires more work than can reasonably be expected to be completed within the quarter, or that any assignment requires extended time or cannot be done within the quarter in which the course occurs. (This situation is not supposed to exist.) Work to be completed under an Incomplete may, at the professor's discretion, include a take-home final examination or a scheduled in-class final examination. The professor decides when, within the additional quarter allowed for the Incomplete, the final must be taken. (It is not automatically extended to the end of the quarter.)

See the Faculty and Student Handbook for more information on the Fuller's Incomplete policies http://www.fuller.edu/registrar/handbooks/sthb_200607/academic_policies.asp.

GRADING SCALE:

ATTENDANCE: The attendance policies for this class follow those laid out in the Student Handbook: "Academic credit for a course requires regular class attendance, whether or not this is stated in the syllabus, and is not just a matter of completing the assignments. Attendance means being present in the class for the entire scheduled class meeting, not just some part of it. In the event of absence for any reason, you are responsible for any information or class content missed. The professor may require additional work to make up for an absence. If you are absent from a significant portion of the course or if you are frequently late for class meetings, even due to extenuating circumstances, this may result in a lower grade or even a failing grade for the course."

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITMENT: At the beginning of this course we, as faculty and students, reaffirm our commitment to be beyond reproach in our academic work as a reflection of Christian character. We commit to honesty in all aspects of our work. We seek to establish a community which values serious intellectual engagement and personal faithfulness more highly than grades, degrees, or publications.

Students are expected to review and understand the commitments to academic integrity as printed in the Student Handbook and the Seminary catalog. Some infractions can be addressed by personal confrontation and corrective counsel. The following violations of these commitments will be firmly addressed formally:

- Submitting the same work in whole or part in more than one course without the permission of the professor(s);

- Submitting as one's own work paper(s) from another source;
- Plagiarism: unattributed quotations or paraphrases of ideas from published, unpublished or electronic sources;
- Unpermitted collaboration in preparing assignments;
- Cheating on exams by any means
- Aiding another student on papers and tests in violation of these commitments.

Any of these violations will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly the course, and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Group which may impose further sanctions in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Evidence of repeated violations will result in a formal disciplinary process. For the full statement on Academic Integrity see the Official Statements of Fuller online at <http://www.fuller.edu/registrar/standards.pdf>.

Academic Integrity Group: This group, comprised of three faculty members, one from each of the three schools, administers the implementation of the Academic Integrity policy. Contact: AIG aig-chair@dept.fuller.edu.

PASS/FAIL REGISTRATIONS: Students taking this class on a pass/fail basis are expected to complete all requirements.

REQUIRED READING:

Balmer, Randall. *Thy Kingdom Come*. Basic Books, 2006.

Boyd, Gregory A. *The Myth of a Christian Nation*. Zondervan, 2005.

Hendricks, Obery. *The Politics of Jesus*. New York: Doubleday, 2006.

Hynes, Patrick. *In Defense of the Religious Right*. Nelson, 2006.

Sider, Ronald J. and Diane Knippers, eds. *Toward an Evangelical Public Policy*. Baker, 2005.

Wallis, Jim. *God's Politics*. HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.

SELECT ONE OF THESE TWO BOOKS FOR REVIEW:

Schwarz, Sidney. *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World*. Jewish Lights, 2006.

Heyer, Kristin E. *Prophetic and Public: The Social Witness of U.S. Catholicism*. Georgetown, 2006.

RECOMMENDED READING:

A list of recommended reading will be provided in the course syllabus.

ASSIGNMENTS: (1) Reading of assigned texts—students will keep a running journal for interaction with the reading material. Due on July 30 via email (20%). (2) Midterm exam, July 20—covering all materials through the first week of class (20%). (3) Faith and Politics Paper/Presentation—Each student will present a 15-minute statement (probably 6-7 typed pages) of their current stance on the relationship between faith and politics, using the conceptual categories developed in class. Dates: Last two days of class (20%). (4) Final exam, July 27—covering all materials through the second week of class, with a comprehensive essay component (20%). (5)

Book review of 7-8 pages—this review involves not just engagement with either the Schwarz or Heyer book, but also critical reflection on lessons learned for evangelical engagement with politics. Due August 3 via email (20%).

PREREQUISITES: None.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: Meets MDiv core requirement in Christian Ethics (ETH).

FINAL EXAMINATION: Yes, July 27.