



ISSUES IN CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE IND 300

Winter Semester 2006

Time: Wednesday & Friday 9:45 – 11:00

Location: 811

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Course Description

This interdisciplinary course seeks to examine the relationship between religion, politics, and moral philosophy. Special attention will be given to the role that religious beliefs are entitled to play in the development and administration of public policies within pluralistic liberal democracies.

Course Objectives

1. Students should learn the rudiments of political philosophy and appreciate the place that religious belief has in our political culture.
2. Students will examine the debates surrounding abortion, euthanasia, same sex marriage, pornography, etc., and assess the role that Christian perspectives might have in these public debates.
3. Students should gain an appreciation for the tensions that exist within pluralistic liberal democracies particularly when trying to discern whether and when tolerance or intolerance are called for.

Required Texts

George, R. P. (2001). *The Clash of Orthodoxies: Law, Religion, and Morality in Crisis*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books.

Recommended Texts

Audi, R. (2000). *Religious Commitment and Secular Reason*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Kymlicka, W. (2002). *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Course Requirements and Grading

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| 1. Attendance & Participation | 25% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to attend each class session with an engaged frame of mind, prepared to contribute meaningful conversation to the topics under discussion. Each unexcused absence from class merits an immediate 1% deduction and class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses three classes and generally participates excellently in class he or she generally cannot achieve more than 22/25 for this portion of his or her evaluation. • Students are also required to engage in ongoing ‘discussion room’ conversation in the online classroom environment. Discussion topics will be posted on a weekly basis and students are expected to post questions and comments in response. | |
| 2. Research Paper | 35% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due Date: Wednesday, April 17th by 4:00 PM. • Abstract Required: a short abstract (one or two paragraphs) identifying the topic and the general line of argumentation must be submitted via e-mail no later than Wednesday, March 29th by 4:00 PM. • Submission Procedure: Each paper is to be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment by 4:00 PM on the assigned due date. No hard copy submission is required. E-mails will be saved as ‘official submissions’ in the event of dispute over original content. • Required word processing format is ®Microsoft Word. Attachments are to be named as follows: IND 300 Last Name.doc (e.g., IND 300 Smith.doc). • Late Policy: Late submissions (i.e., submissions after 4:00 PM on the due date) lose 5% for every 24 hours they are not submitted. Weekend days and holidays are counted the same as typical weekdays. Submissions more than 5 days (120 hours) late receive a failing grade. • Research Paper Format Requirements | |

- X 8-10 pages excluding title page: roughly 23 lines of text per page
- X Double spaced (not e.g., 1.25, 1.95, 2.5, etc.)
- X 12pt Font (not e.g., 10, 11, 11.8, 12.5, etc.) of New Times Roman, not, e.g., Arial.
- X New paragraphs should be indented with no additional space between paragraphs.
- X Sentences should be separated by two spaces, not just one.
- X Margins: 1.0 to 1.25 inch (or 2.5 – 3.0 cm).

3. Final Exam

40%

- Students must pass the final exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but performs very poorly on the final exam may fail the course.
- Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Policies of AUC-NUC found on pages 66-76 of the *AUC-NUC Academic Calendar*.
- A detailed grading scheme can be found on page 67. Three significant reasons for unrealized grade expectations for written work are: (1) failures to proof read, often the result of not giving oneself enough time for multiple drafts, and (2) late submissions, and (3) failures to conform with format requirements.
- Please pay particular attention to sections 26-28 found on pages 71 and 72. These sections outline clearly the regulations concerning **plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty**.
- Students are responsible to check their UC e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.