

**SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**ETHIC 7674 Current Ethical Issues—Poverty and Wealth**  
**Fall 2014—Wednesday, 8:00-10:00 am**  
**Dr. William E. Goff, Professor**

**SYLLABUS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a study of the current literature on wealth and poverty, including a biblical, historical, sociological, missiological, and economic basis for building a Christian perspective for their role in an age of increasing world poverty, while also there being a potential for greater economic development.

**COURSE GOALS:**

1. The student will explore the issues related to world poverty with its variety of causes and conditions as found in differing cultural and governmental world contexts.
2. Analysis will be made of the impact that the Christian movement has made on the issues of wealth and poverty.
3. Biblical and historical data for interpreting the issues of wealth and poverty will be examined.
4. Relevant systems of economic strategies for dealing with poverty, both Christian and otherwise, will be reviewed. Concerns for growing in Christian stewardship (including compassionate caring for the least of these) will also be considered.
5. The student will do an in-depth research paper on a particular concern in the area of poverty or wealth, including possible missionary (or holistic evangelical) strategies.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. The student will gain knowledge of the biblical, historical, sociological, missiological and economic basis for interpreting the issues of wealth and poverty.
2. The student will learn the basic resources for researching this important set of moral concerns.
3. The student will be guided to learn how to apply moral principles to moral concerns with the complications of having world dimensions to take into consideration.
4. The student will gain a breadth of understanding of how to engage this world-wide moral concern and discern strategies for addressing the related issues.
5. The students will sharpen their research and writing skills by writing and defending a thorough research paper on a specific issue related to world poverty and global wealth.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Each student will read a representative number of texts on poverty and wealth and will make reports each week to the class on the content of that which was selected to be read. The weekly reading will be planned out at the beginning of the semester, with the student being allowed to select those texts which will be most relevant to their research interests. Most weeks a written summary will be expected to be shared.

2. There will be a few texts which all members of the class will read and analyze together, because those books are some of the classic works that build a solid foundation for being well versed in this area of moral concern.
3. Each member of the class will write a major research paper that deals with some specific aspect of world poverty and global prosperity. Concern should be shown for devising adequate strategies for addressing and resolving world poverty, or addressing Western and Christian prosperity. The length of the paper depends on the subject chosen. This project should be thoroughly researched and well documented, proving a suggested thesis.

**Bibliography:** Note that those with an asterisk (\*) are to be considered as primary sources for this seminar.

**Biblical/Ethical Values on Wealth and Poverty:**

Beito, David T., et. al. *Transforming Welfare: The Revival of American Charity*. Grand Rapids: Acton Institute, 1997.

\*Bradley, Anne and Art Lindsley. *For the Least of These: A Biblical Answer to Poverty*. Bloomington, Indiana, Westbow Press, 2014.

\*Brooks, Arthur C. *Who Really Cares: America's Charity Divide--Who Gives, Who Doesn't, and Why It Matters*. New York: Perseus Books Group, 2006.

Hughes, Dewi and Matthew Bennett, *God of the Poor: A Biblical Vision of God's Present Rule*. Carlisle, Cumbria, England: Paternoster Press, 1998.

Keller, Timothy. *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2010.

Olasky, Marvin. *Renewing American Compassion*. Washington DC : Regnery Publishing, Inc. , 1996.

**Issues of Prosperity, Wealth, Capitalism and the Free Market:**

Birch, Bruce C. and Larry L. Rasmussen. *The Predicament of the Prosperous*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1978.

Brand, Chad. *Flourishing Faith: A Baptist Primer on Work, Economics, and Civic Stewardship*. Grand Rapids: Christian Library Press, 2012.

\*De Soto, Hernando. *The Mystery of Capitalism: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. New York: Perseus Books Group, 2000.

Easterly, William. *The White Man's Burden. Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York, Penguin Books, 2006.

Gregg, Samuel. *The Commercial Society: Foundations and Challenges in a Global Age*. New York: Lexington Books, 2007.

Hill, Austin and Scott Rae. *The Virtues of Capitalism: A Moral Case for Free Markets*. Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 2010.

Kuyper, Abraham. *The Problem of Poverty*. Sioux Center, Iowa: Dordt College Press, 2011.

Lindenberg, Adolpho. *The Free Market in a Christian Society*. Washington, D. C.: St. Antoninus Institute, 1999.

Malloch, Theodore Roosevelt. *Spiritual Enterprise: Doing Virtuous Business*. New York: Encounter Books, 2008.

\*Schneider, John R. *The Good of Affluence: Seeking God in a Culture of Wealth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.

\*Sider, Ronald J. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger. Moving from Affluence to Generosity*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1997.

\*Sirico, Robert. *Defending the Free Market: The Moral Case for a Free Economy*. Washington, D. C. Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2012.

\*Stark, Rodney. *The Victory of Reason: How Capitalism Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*. New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2005.

Van Duzer, Jeff. *Why Business Matters to God: And What Still Needs to Be Fixed*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010.

\*Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Third Roxbury Edition. Los Angeles, California: Roxbury Publishing Company, 2002.

Weigel, George and Robert Royal. Ed. *Building the Free Society: Democracy, Capitalism and Catholic Social Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.

\*Wong, Kenman L. and Scott B. Rae. *Business for the Common Good: A Christian Vision for the Market Place*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2011.

**Issue of Poverty:**

\*Boers, Ted and Tim Stoner. *Demons of Poverty: One Entrepreneur's Experience Addressing Poverty in Haiti*. Micah Enterprises, 2012.

Christian, Jayakumar. *God of the Empty-Handed: Poverty, Power and the Kingdom of God*. Monrovia, California: World Vision, 1999.

Grigg, Viv. *Cry of the Urban Poor: Reaching the Slum of Today's Megacities*. Monrovia, California: MARC, 1992.

\*Grudem, Wayne and Barry Asmus. *The Poverty of Nations: A Sustainable Solution*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Myers, Bryant L. et. al, *Working with the Poor: New Insights and learnings from Development Practioners*. Monrovia, California: World Vision, 1999.

\*Powell, Benjamin. *Out of Poverty: Sweatshops in the Global Economy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Yamamori, Tetsunao, et. al. eds. *Serving with the Poor in Latin America*. Monrovia, California: World Vision, 1997.

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**Ministry Responses to World Poverty:**

Bradshaw, Bruce. *Bridging the Gap: Evangelism, Development and Shalom*. Monrovia, California: World Vision, 1993.

Bussau, David and Russell Mask. *Christian Microenterprise Development*. Carlisle, Cumbria, Great Britain: Regnum Books, 2003.

\*Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself*. Expanded Edition. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012

Fairbanks, Michael. *In the River They Swim: Essays from Around the World on Enterprise Solutions to Poverty*. West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania: Templeton Press, 2009.

\*Greer, Peter and Phil Smith. *The Poor Will Be Glad: Joining the Revolution to Lift the World Out of Poverty*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Linthicum, Robert C. *Empower the Poor: Community, Organizing Among the City's "Rag, Tag and Bobtail."* Monrovia, California: MARC, 1991.

\*\*Myers, Bryant L. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* Revised and Expanded Edition. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2014.

\*Polak, Paul and Mal Warwick. *The Business Solution to Poverty.: Designing Products and Services for Three Billion New Customers.* San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2013.

Roberts, W. Dayton. *Patching God's Garment: Environment and Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.* Monrovia, California: MARC 1994.

Ronsvalle, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle. *The Poor Have Faces: Loving Your Neighbor in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1991.

\*Seebeck, Doug and Timothy Stoner. *My Business, My Mission: Fighting Poverty Through Partnerships.* Grand Rapids: Partner Worldwide, 2009.

Sider, Ronald J. *Just Generosity: A New Vision for Overcoming Poverty in America.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.

Suderman, Robert J. *Calloused Hands, Courageous Souls.* Monrovia, California: MARC, 1998.