

ETHIC 4373—Ethics and Public Policy
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Summer 2014

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I. Course Description

The relations of politics and economics will be analyzed from biblical and theological perspectives for purposes of applying Christian principles to the individual Christian life as well as to the conduct of the Christian church in its local community and in the world. Particular interest will be given to the problems and challenges of wealth and poverty.

II. Course Objectives

- A. A student who completes this course should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of politics, economics, and public policy and articulate the impact of those systems on ethics.
- B. A student who completes this course should be able to critique economic and political systems from a biblical worldview
- C. A student who completes this course should be able to engage contemporary culture on issues related to politics, economics, and public policy with the goal of transforming culture from an informed biblical perspective.

III. Required Texts

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

Grudem, Wayne. *Politics According to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Attendance of Acton University—This course is specifically designed to work in conjunction with Acton University. Students are required to register for and attend all sessions of Acton University on June 17–20, 2014 in Grand Rapids MI. Registration for the conference is available at <http://university.acton.org>.
- B. Evening Discussions—Each evening following the keynote address, the class will gather for approximately one hour to discuss the day's sessions. Students need to come prepared to discuss what they learned. Bringing notes from the sessions will be helpful.
- C. Book Reviews—Students will submit a 2–3 page book review of each of the required texts. Each review should summarize the main idea(s) of the book and

offer a brief critique of the author's argument. The book reviews should be submitted on Blackboard. Both book reviews are due by 11:59 pm on June 28.

- C. Reflection Paper—Each student must submit a reflection paper of 5–7 pages in length discussing what he/she learned at Acton University. The paper should include a list of all sessions attended. While content from each session is not required, the student is expected to integrate concepts learned from various sessions throughout the paper. The reflection paper should be submitted on Blackboard. The paper is due by 11:59 pm on July 12.

V. Grading

A. Assignment Weight	B. Seminary Grading Scale
Acton University Attendance 25%	A+ 98–100 C 73–77
Discussion Participation 25%	A 93–97 C- 70–72
Book Reviews 25%	A- 90–92 D+ 68–69
Reflection Paper 25%	B+ 88–89 D 63–67
	B 83–87 D- 60–62
	B- 80–82 F Below
	C+ 78–79 60

VI. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. When the professor concludes that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the student will receive the grade of zero for the assignment, and the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will be notified about the incident. The same actions apply to other acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating on examinations (see the Ethical Conduct section in the seminary's catalog).

VII. Special Needs

Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester in order for special arrangements to be considered.

VIII. Syllabus

The professor has provided this syllabus as a written outline and summary for the convenience of the student. The professor may change the syllabus in writing or verbally for any reason at any time at his sole discretion. By remaining enrolled in the course, the student agrees to be bound by the syllabus and by any changes made by the professor.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

Class Dates	Topic	Assignments
TBA	Pre-Meeting	Read Brand and Grudem
June 17	Arrive in Grand Rapids by 3:00 pm (Travel arrangements are responsibility of student) 5:00 pm—Dinner/Evening Program 7:30 pm—Class Meeting (location TBA)	Read Brand and Grudem
June 18	8:00 am–7:30 pm—Acton University sessions 7:30 pm—Class Meeting (location TBA)	Read Brand and Grudem
June 19	8:00 am–7:30 pm—Acton University sessions 7:30 pm—Class Meeting (location TBA)	Read Brand and Grudem
June 20	8:00 am–7:30 pm—Acton University sessions 7:30 pm—Class Meeting (location TBA)	Read Brand and Grudem
June 21	Travel home	
June 28	Book Reviews	Book Reviews due by 11:59 pm on June 28
July 12	Reflection Paper	Reflection Paper due by 11:59 pm on July 12