TALBOT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SCOTT B. RAE, Ph.D.
TTPT 703--CHURCH AND SOCIETY
SPRING 2013
COURSE OUTLINE

Objectives: By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Construct a Biblical social ethic that can be applied to various social/ethical issues.

2. Adopt a model for the Church's involvement with the broader society.

3. Present an analysis of 3 major current social/ethical issues that are in need of a coherent Christian position.

Schedule: The course meets on Saturdays, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, on Feb. 16, Mar. 9, Apr. 6, Apr. 27, May 18

2/16	Introduction to Course; Current Context for the Church's Relationship to Society; Social Ethics and Ethical Systems (Rae, ch. 1, 3-4); Christian Ethics (Rae, ch. 2); Church's Mission to the Culture (read this material prior to the first class session)
3/9	Abortion and Related Issues; Embryonic Stem Cell Research; (Rae, ch. 5; Case 5.1 due); Death, Dying and Physician Assisted Suicide (Rae, ch. 8, Kilner, Part III; Case 8.1 due)
4/6	Infertility and Reproductive Technologies (Rae, ch. 6, Kilner, Part I, Case 6.1 due); Genetic Technologies: Therapy, Testing and Information (Rae, ch. 7, Kilner, Part II, Case 7.1 due);
4/27	Capital Punishment (Rae, ch. 9, Case 9.1 due); Sexual Ethics and AIDS (Rae, ch. 10, Case 10.1 due), Morality of War (Rae, ch. 11, Case 11.1 due)
5/18	The Poor, Christianity and Capitalism (Rae, ch. 12, Rae/Hill due); Issues in Business Ethics, (Case 12.3 due, Calling Case due, Bribery Case due)

Assignments:

1. Reading of all texts and class discussion; all reading to be done prior to class session in which it's covered (counts 5% of your grade)

2. 3 papers addressing a case study on a specific issue in social ethics. You will be given the cases from which to choose and you should answer the questions in the case. These should be 5-6 pages in length and each paper counts 30% of your grade. They are due on the day the topic is discussed in class.

3. Periodic quizzes on the reading in Moral Choices (counts 5% of your grade)

Textbooks:

Rae, Moral Choices
Hill/Rae, The Virtues of Capitalism
Kilner, ed., Why the Church Needs Bioethics

Office: I am at Talbot East 312, x 5531. I can also be reached at home at 949-295-6603. Email is scott.rae@biola.edu

Disability Requirement:

Students desiring accommodations for your class on the basis of physical learning, or emotional disability are to contact Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Student Services Building across from the gym and can be reached by calling (562) 944-0351, extension 5851.

Grading Standards for Written Work:

Whereas Biola University desires to maintain the highest standards with respect to the composition of all written work, any student paper exhibiting poor grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, or other substandard academic expression shall have the overall grade for that paper reduced accordingly. Generally, a paper will be deemed substandard and ineligible to receive an "A" grade when it averages three or more compositional errors per page. Moreover, at the discretion of the professor, the substandard paper may be returned to the student for correction and resubmission with appropriate grade penalties. Students deficient in writing skills may seek assistance at the Biola Writing Center.

Plagiarism:

Talbot School of Theology sees any form of plagiarism as a serious problem with serious consequences. Please refer to the academic integrity statement and article on plagiarism in the Talbot Graduate Student Handbook.

Technology in the Classroom:

Laptops and iPads - Personal laptop computers and iPads may be used in Talbot class

sessions for note-taking purposes only. Other laptop/iPad uses, including personal email, is strongly discouraged during class time. Laptops and iPads must be off, and put away, during all exams (except with the clear and expressed permission of the instructor). Students with laptops or iPads on during an exam will receive a failing grade for the exam.

Cell Phones - Cell phones must be turned to silent mode when entering the classroom. Take special care to attend to this. It is the expectation of the Talbot faculty that students will not take calls in the classroom, and will not exit the room during class to take calls, except in the case of emergencies. Cell phones must be off, and put away, during all exams (except with the clear and expressed special permission of the instructor). Students with cell phones on during an exam will receive a failing grade for the exam.

Electronic Dictionaries - Electronic dictionaries are not allowed during exams. Students who anticipate the need of a dictionary during an examination should bring a print dictionary to the exam, and check it in through the professor or exam proctor.

iPods, DVRs, and Lecture Proprietary Matters - It is the expectation of the Talbot faculty that iPods may not be used during class sessions, except for the sole purpose of recording lectures. iPods and digital voice recorders (DVRs), or other taping devices, may only be used to record class lectures with the clear and expressed permission of the instructor (usually stated in the course syllabus). Recordings of classroom lectures, and printed course materials, are the intellectual property of the instructor. They may not be distributed in any form without permission.