Sioux Falls Seminary

IC 531 Faith, Business, and Money

Instructor:	W. Jay Moon (& other faculty)	Phone:	605/336-6588
Semester:	Spring, 2013. Thursday, 6-9 PM	E-mail:	jmoon@sfseminary.edu
Credit Hours:	3		

NOTE: This syllabus may be revised prior to the first day of class.

Course Description:

This course discusses the interaction between faith, business, and money. Since economics affects our everyday lives and ministries, it is essential to have a well-rounded biblical-theological approach to business and money. Both contemporary and ancient views/practices will be investigated to help students form an approach that is both biblically faithful and relevant to their own contemporary context.

Course Objectives:

1. Articulate core biblical-theological principles on work, wealth, and economic justice.
2. Apply academic knowledge of work with the process of discernment to affirm or discover how God is at work in our lives.
3. Discover how culture affects our own assumptions concerning money.
4. Recognize opportunities for social entrepreneurs to create social change through a theological approach to business.
5. Understand some of the contemporary dangers that occur when money is not used strategically.
6. Integrate economics and faith perspectives in order to articulate maxims for economic wisdom.

Required Course Textbooks:

1. Blomberg, Craig L. 1999. *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*. New Studies in Biblical Theology Series 7. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. ISBN: 978-0-8308-2607-0.

2. Claar, Victor and Robin Klay. 2007. *Economics in Christian Perspective: Theory, Policy and Life Choices.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. ISBN 978-0830825974.
3. Greer, Peter, and Phil Smith. 2009. *The Poor Will Be Glad: Joining the Revolution to Lift the World Out of Poverty*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN: 978-0-310-29359-0.
4. Lupton, Robert. 2011. *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)*. NY: Harper One. ISBN: 978-0062076212.
5. Payne, Ruby. 2005. *A Framework for Understanding Poverty, Fourth Edition.* Highlands, TX: Aha Process. ISBN: 978-1929229482.

Recommended Course Textbooks (helpful background but not required reading):

1. Maranz, David. 2001. *African Friends and Money Matters*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. ISBN: 978-1556711176.
2. Veith, Gene. 2002. *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway. ISBN 978-1-4335-2447-9.
3. Whelchel, Hugh. 2012. *How Then Should We Work? Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work.* Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press. ISBN 978-1-4497-4581-3.
4. Yunus, Muhummad. 2010. *Building Social Business: The New Kind of Capitalism that Serves Humanity's Most Pressing Needs*. NY: Public Affairs. ISBN 978-1-58648-824-6.

Course Requirements:

There are several faculty that will teach from their own area of specialization (see schedule below). The reading assignments for each week (see schedule below) should be completed prior to the class discussion. Grades will be based on the following:

Class participation: You are expected to participate in class discussions. Each of you brings various experiences to the discussion that can enrich the group. We intend to build community here and begin to help/learn from each other. Also, **this is worth 13% of your grade** so it is wise to participate.

Weekly competencies: Based on the reading and class discussion each week (excluding week one), each student will demonstrate their understanding of the material and their competency in the topic area. Students can demonstrate competency in a number of ways, and the professors will post the competency assignments in the class Moodle site. This will be discussed more in class. **Each competency is worth 5 % for a total of 60% of your grade.**

Final Project: Students will demonstrate their reflection, integration, and application of the class material through a final project submitted on the last day of class. You can do this alone or in a group (no more than 4 students). Using the Economic Wisdom Project (a handout from the Kern Foundation), each of the 12 maxims will be critiqued using the

perspectives discussed in class (biblical, historical, theological, economic, cultural, strategic, vocational, and social entrepreneurial). This will result in a final paper (20 pages, double-spaced). Areas to address in the paper include:

- Briefly describe the maxim, providing the background theoretical rationale and practical examples to flesh it out.
- What limitations need to be considered for the maxim?
- What revisions should be considered for the maxim?
- Are there other maxims that need to be considered?

On the last day of class, students will make an oral presentation on one of the 12 maxims. The final project grade will be based 50% on the written paper and 50 % on the oral presentation. The **final project is worth 27 % of your grade**.

Optional Extra Credit: Describe a contemporary social need (either locally or globally) and briefly discuss how a social entrepreneurship could create a social change that would reflect the kingdom of God. This optional assignment should be approximately 4 double-spaced pages and it can result in up to 3 % points to be added to your grade.

Course Grading Criteria:

Grading rubrics will be posted on the class Moodle site for the final written project and the final oral presentation. The final course grade will be based on the following:

Class participation	13%
12 weekly competencies x 5 % each	60 %
Final project	27 %
Optional Extra Credit	3 %

Course Tentative Schedule:

Week	Dates	Topic	Faculty	Required Reading
1	2/4-10	Overview	Jay Moon	Economic Wisdom Project handout (Kern)
2	2/11-17	N.T. Perspective	Nathan Hitchcock	Blomberg: 111-end
3	2/18-24	O.T. Perspective	John Anderson	“Neither Poverty nor Riches,” Blomberg: beginning-110
4	2/25-3/3	Church Historical views	Philip Thompson	Week 4 Articles
5	3/4-10	Vocation	Susan Reese	Articles (posted on

				Moodle Site)
	3/11-17	READING WEEK	----------	----------
6	3/18-24	Economics I	Jeff Frohwein, Nate Helling	"Economics from a Christian Perspective," V. Claar
7	3/25-31	Economics II	Jeff Frohwein, Nate Helling	
8	4/1-7	Cultural views I	Jay Moon	"A Framework for Understanding Poverty," R. Payne
9	4/8-14	Cultural views II	Jay Moon	Globalization article (posted on Moodle)
10	4/15-21	Strategic connections I	Bob Lupton seminar	"Toxic Charity," B. Lupton
	4/22-28	READING WEEK	----------	----------
11	4/29-5/5	Strategic connections I	Bob Lupton seminar	
12	5/6-12	Theological views	Philip Thompson	Week 12 Articles
13	5/13-19	Social Entrepreneurship	Jay Moon	"The Poor Will Be Glad," P. Greer & P. Smith
14	5/20-24	Project Presentations	Jay Moon	

Note: As a part of the seminary's ongoing assessment of the Master of Divinity curriculum, specific assignments within this course may be rendered anonymous and juried by qualified individuals to determine the degree to which the seminary is achieving its goals for this course.

Course Moodle Site:

All assignments should be posted on the class Moodle site. The professors will grade the assignments and provide comments in the Moodle site as well. Some of the articles will be posted there. Others will need to be retrieved either via the Library database or from the Library reserve desk.

<u>Articles to read for week four</u>:

Anderson, Gary A. "Faith & finance." *First Things* no. 193 (May 1, 2009): 29-34. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Lindberg, Carter. "Through a glass darkly : a history of the church's vision of the poor and poverty." *Ecumenical Review* 33, no. 1 (January 1, 1981): 37-52. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Nelson, Janet R. "Walter Rauschenbusch and the social gospel: a hopeful theology for the twenty-first century economy." *Cross Currents* 59, no. 4 (December 1, 2009): 442-456. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Peters, Rebecca Todd. "Examining the economic crisis as a crisis of values." *Interpretation* 65, no. 2 (April 1, 2011): 154-166. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Weaver, Rebecca H. "Wealth and poverty in the early church." *Interpretation* 41, no. 4 (October 1, 1987): 368-381. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

<u>Articles to read for week twelve</u>:

Byassee, Jason. "Be happy: the health and wealth gospel." *Christian Century* 122, no. 14 (July 12, 2005): 20-23. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Cavanaugh, William C. *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008). Pages: 33-58, 89-100.

Cavanaugh, William T. "When enough is enough: why God's abundant life won't fit in a shopping cart, and other mysteries of consumerism." *Sojourners Magazine* 34, no. 5: 8-10. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Gutterman, David. “Narrating Desire: The Gospel of Wealth in Christian America,” in John Dyck, Paul Rowe, and Jens Zimmerman, eds. *Politics and the Religious Imagination* (New York: Routledge, 2010), 74-91.

Heim, David. "The church in capitalism." *Christian Century* 109, no. 33 (November 11, 1992): 1019-1020. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).

Novak, Michael. "An apology for democratic capitalism." *First Things* no. 189 (January 1, 2009): 39-42. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials*, EBSCO*host* (accessed November 2, 2012).