BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL
HISTORY AND DOCTRINE
DVHD 723, WEALTH, POVERTY, AND THE CHURCH

SPRING 2013
T 2:30-4:10
DIV S109

MARK DEVINE
DIVINITY S326
726-4622

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this seminar course we shall explore certain key views of wealth and poverty that have surfaced in the Christian tradition and we shall consider major biblical teaching on this theme, giving consideration especially to the Exodus, the Prophetic tradition and Luke/Acts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To encourage students to explore biblical teaching regarding wealth and poverty.
- To expose students to significant voices and views currently shaping engagement with the issues of wealth and poverty from a Christian perspective.
- To encourage students to begin developing a Christian posture toward issues related to wealth and poverty and how these might inform and shape preaching, church life, and mission.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **10 Short Seminar Paper (10 pts each)**
- **Theological Reflection Paper (100 pts)**

Required Texts:

Jay W. Richards, *Money, Greed, and God: Why Capitalism is the Solution and not the Problem* (2009)

Michael Novak, *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* (1990)

John Schneider, *The Good of Affluence: Seeking God in a Culture of Wealth* (2002)

Suggested Reading:

Ronald J. Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, 20th Anniversary Revision (Dallas, Word, 1997).

Blank & McGurn, *Is the Market Moral?* (Washington: Brookings Institute, 2004).

Attendance: Attendance in all classes is both required and expected. Nevertheless, it is sometimes the case that a student will miss class due to circumstances beyond their control. When a student is absent for such a reason, that student must inform the professor as soon as possible and provide whatever documentation the professor requires to support the claim. While there may be multiple reasons for an absence (eg. illness, medical condition, accident), missions trips and/or any other ministry related opportunities are not considered a sufficient reason to miss class. The professor is not required to allow a student to make up any work missed as a result of an absence.

Standard Grading Scale

94-100 (A)
90-93 (A-)
87-89 (B+)
84-86 (B)
80-83 (B-)
77-79 (C+)
74-76 (C)
70-73 (C-)
67-69 (D+)
64-66 (D)
60-63 (D-)
Below 60 (F)

Disability Statement

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services, located in the University Center within the Career Development office, Room 205 (telephone number: 726-4078 or 726-2105). A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations *only* upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are forms of academic dishonesty and are therefore forbidden in all Beeson Divinity School courses. For the full policy (including a description of the sanctions) consult the *Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook.* If you have a question of whether or not something is plagiarism, please consult the professor *before* turning in the assignment.

Incompletes Statement

A grade of "Incomplete" for the semester's grade is granted only at the discretion of the professor. It is not automatic. Per the *Beeson Bulletin: 2011-2013* an Incomplete is given only for an unavoidable absence from a final exam or an excusable failure to complete assignments due to serious illness or family crisis; an Incomplete (INC) grade automatically becomes an F if not removed within one semester after the grade is given. This grade of F may not be challenged. For the policy and procedures for an Incomplete (INC) see p. 39 of the *Bulletin.*

Computer Statement

Computer Use: At the discretion of the professor, students may use computers in class under the condition that they will use their device only for purposes related to that class. Students may not use their devices for e-mail, social media sites, internet use, games or software that parses Greek and Hebrew. Using these programs or any others that are unrelated to the class is inappropriate and a cause of distraction to other students. The professor maintains the right to discipline any student violating this policy in whatever way he or she sees fit, including expulsion from the class.

Schedule:

Jan 29	**Introduction**
Feb 5	**Schneider, Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1** **Novak, pp. 11-28**
Feb 12	**Schneider, Chapters 2-3** **Novak, pp. 29-48**

Feb 19	Schneider, Chapters 4-5 Novak, pp. 49-70
Feb 26	Schneider, Chapter 6 Guest Speaker, Dr. Jeremy Thorton, Samford Univ., *Is the Market Moral?*
Mar 5	Schneider, Chapter 7 Guest Speaker, Dr. Sarah Helms, Samford Univ., *Is the Market Moral?*
Mar 11	Schneider 8, Epilogue Novak, pp. 79-95
Mar 19	Spring Break
Mar 26	Guest Speaker, Art Carden, Samford Univ. Richards. Introduction, Chapter 1-2
Apr 2	Richards, Chapters 3-4
Apr 9	Review
Apr 16	Richards, Chapters 4-5
Apr 23	Richards, Chapters 6-7 Novak, pp. 128-142 Approved Title for Theological Reflection Paper Due
Apr 30	Richards, Chapter 8, Conclusion Novak, pp. 143-155
May 7	Papers Due

SEMINAR PAPERS

There are 11 weekly reading assignments this semester. Each student is required to produce a one page assignment related to 10 of these assignments. Students are expected to come to class have given close reading and study to all 11 assignments in order to contribute to class discussion but may omit one weekly assignment in regard to the written seminar paper. On the week students chose not to complete the written assignment the student should turn in a one sheet paper stating that this is the case.

Seminar papers are not to exceed one side of one page (single spaced, double-spaced between sections; 12 pt. font; 1 inch margins). Be sure to include your name on this sheet and your BDS mailbox number.

Seminar papers are to include:

1. In four lines or less, state the thesis or argument or each reading.

2. Articulation of at five ideas/arguments/conclusions that were new to the student(at least two from each reading).

3. Articulate at least three implications for ministry/Christian life (prayer, preaching, missions etc.) should the argument of the author(s) be maintained. At least one such implication should be articulated from each assigned author.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION PAPER

In this paper students should reflect theologically on the issues of wealth, poverty, and the church in dialogue with the reading and lectures and class discussions completed during the course. The student should attempt to ground his/her argument in an interpretation of key scriptural passages and in dialogue with key ideas encountered within assigned reading, lectures, and class discussions. The student should produce an approved title in communication with the professor by April 23.

The paper should be 10-12 pages, 12. Pt. font, 1 in. margins. Use introductory and concluding paragraphs and sub-headings.