



WSOLC – Western Seminary Online Campus

Course Number: PTS 504E – Fall 2014
Course Title: Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence
Instructor: John Johnson, Ph.D.
Credit Hours: 2

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course is offered in both an 8 and a 16 week schedule. You can see a "Course Schedule by Week" in this syllabus. After enrollment in the course you can see a course schedule with specific dates in the learning center for your assignments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course gives attention to the essential nature and vocation of the Church as God's called people. Students are challenged to rethink the mission of the Church, moving beyond traditional assumptions, and relating the mission to a modern/post-modern context. Focus will be given to countering pluralism and the new paganism, determining a biblical strategy for accomplishing the mission, developing a social conscience, putting together a global approach to ministry, and creating the structures for achieving redemptive influence. 2 credit hours.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- As a result of this course, you should be able to:
 1. Develop a biblical understanding of the church's mission
 2. Develop cultural literacy, learning how to read culture theologically
 3. Become familiar with the different options for cultural engagement, developing a method that most effectively impacts culture
 4. Lead the church in becoming the redemptive influence God intends for the church to be by crafting sound strategies for engaging culture

TEXTBOOKS

Andy Crouch, [Culture Making](#). Intervarsity Press, (2008) 13: 978-0830833948. MSRP: \$26.00.

Various articles, handouts located on the online learning center

A book from the list in the syllabus (or one approved by your course instructor) that you have not read previously.

Important Note: Required and recommended course texts are subject to change at any time. You are encouraged to purchase these titles through the Amazon.com associate program; you may use the links provided above, or the search option found on the Western website under "Students/Online":
<http://www.westernseminary.edu/students/online>

COURSE FORMAT

1. Course Audio/Video Materials.

Shortly after your course registration, you will receive instructions about how to download your course using the Integr@te program (not earlier than three weeks from your start date).

2. Learning Center.

You will also be given access to a web-based learning center which functions as your classroom for the course. There you will find:

- The course syllabus. **Please Note:** The syllabus in your learning center is the governing course syllabus. Syllabi downloaded from the seminary website, or received from any other source, are for informational purposes only.
- A week-by-week schedule to help you successfully complete the course on time with the least amount of stress. To discuss changing the assignment due dates within the schedule, please contact Jon Raibley:
jraibley@westernseminary.edu
- A progress report for each lesson, by which you will indicate whether you completed your lesson requirements. While still allowing great scheduling flexibility, progress reports help us help you should you begin to fall behind.
- Assignment summaries and links for uploading assignments.
- Links to discussion forums, your course instructor and other students, the distance learning support team, as well as links to other helpful communication and instructional resources.

3. Responsibilities.

Before the end of the first week of the session, you need to log onto the online learning center to complete and upload the course affirmation file. By federal law, we now need to ensure that students participate in courses for the full length of the course. So failure to complete the course affirmation on-time will result in a loss of course points and may impact your financial aid eligibility.

Students will receive on-time completion points for finishing their course work according to the schedule. This means students in the 8 week sessions are required to have all their course work into their course instructor by the end of week 7. Students in the 16 week sessions are required to have all their work into their course instructor by the end of week 15. If you have not been granted an extension, graded assignments turned in after 8:00 a.m. on

Monday of the final week may be subject to a late penalty of up to 10% per day. No online completion points will be granted after that time.

4. Course Instructor.

You will be assigned a course instructor who will participate as appropriate in classroom activities; review, grade, and provide feedback on course assignments; and interact with you on any questions you have about the course. When you receive your course materials, you will also receive contact information for your course instructor. Please contact your course instructor within two weeks of your course start date and maintain regular contact throughout the course.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Participation Requirements.** For each lesson, complete the items as instructed in your learning center, and submit the progress report verifying that you've done so. These progress reports are our primary means of verifying your attendance, and each is worth up to one point toward your final grade. If the progress report is submitted by the due date on your course schedule, you'll receive 100% of the report grade. If you submit the progress report late, but within two weeks of the due date, you will receive 80%. If you submit the progress report more than two weeks late, you will receive 50%. And, of course, if you fail to submit a progress report at all, you will receive 0%. Certain changes are allowed within the course schedule, to allow for flexibility. You may contact Jon Raibley for details: jraibley@westernseminary.edu.

In addition, you are to complete three activities that will allow us to verify your participation at key points within the course, in compliance with federal regulations. Failure to complete these activities within the designated times may impact the amount or timing of federal financial aid you receive.

- First week participation: Within the first week of the posted course dates, complete and upload the affirmation file.
- On-time verification. By the date listed in the schedule, submit your final assignments and complete the verification assignment, to confirm that you finished the course work on time.
- Course evaluation and reflection. Within the final week of the posted course dates, complete the course evaluation and reflection assignment; a link will be emailed to you at that time.

Points: **32** points possible (26 for progress reports, 1 for affirmation file, 5 for on-time verification)

Time: **30** hours estimated media time; estimated **25** hours reading time.

- 2. Reading Report.**

Read one book that addresses culture and redemptive influence (from the list later in this syllabus, or with the approval of your course instructor). Prepare a two page report, the first page being an overview of the book, the second page a careful critique.

Time: 5 hours estimated time

Points: 30 points possible.

3. Cultural Analysis.

Select a film, TV series, or book (to be approved by instructor) that has made (is making) a substantial impact on culture, with the aim of the following:

- a) determining what is behind the screenwriter, director, author's intent
- b) determining what it is saying about our age,
- c) finding the points of contact by which one might engage in a discussion pointing to redemption.

Summarize your findings in 7-8 pages. Follow the following format:

- Brief Description (1-2 pages);
- Why you selected this film/book (1 page);
- What it is saying about our age (2 pages);
- An analysis of what it says in light of Scripture (1 page);
- A strategy for relationally using this work to build a bridge for the gospel, with questions you would ask that could eventually lead to sharing the gospel (2 pages).

Time: 15 hours estimated time

Points: 100 points possible.

4. Counterculture Paper.

Write a paper answering the question, "How Can Followers of Christ Be a Counterculture for the Common Good?" using the model found in The Christian Vision Project. We're asking for specific ways in which we as Christ followers influence and make a positive difference in our world. The goal is for you to come up with an idea that would be truly countercultural—and yet be for the common good. A good article to get a sense of the project is by Lauren Winner, who addressed the issue of sleep in a B&C article—getting the amount God designed us to have—which runs counter to our culture that is sleep deprived. This not only represents creational guidelines (Ps 127), but it is ultimately for the common good. God calls us to something radical, and yet life is so much better when we comply. The article can be found at on the learning center. Choose something radical -- something Jesus calls us to -- that ultimately serves humanity. It takes work to come up with an idea, but the aim is to help you make a difference, showing the world that following Christ is what we are all desperate for. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced.

Time: 10 hours estimated time

Points: 50 points possible.

5. **Discussion Forum.** A discussion forum allows you to share your thoughts with, and receive feedback from, your course instructor and other students in the course. You will make three original postings throughout the semester, and respond to the postings of three other students. You might address such questions as the following:

- What is a key lesson you've discovered in the previous lectures or reading?
- What do you agree or disagree with?

- How does your experience confirm or conflict with the teaching?
- What Scriptures address the principles and attitudes discussed in the material?
- What character issues were raised in the lectures or reading?
- What action steps can you take to better influence the culture in one of the areas covered?

Time: 5 hours estimated discussion time.

Points: 45 points possible. (10 points per original post, 5 points per response)

GRADING SCALE

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-
99-100%	95-98%	93-94%	91-92%	88-90%	86-87%
C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
84-85%	81-83%	79-80%	77-78%	74-76%	70-73%

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Assignment	Approx. Hours	Points Possible	Lesson Due
1. Participation Requirements	25	26	Per schedule
Reading			
Course Lectures			
Policy Affirmation, On Time Verification, Course Evaluation		6	
2. Reading Report	5	30	11
3. Cultural Analysis	15	100	12
4. Countercultural Paper	10	50	End
5. Discussion Forum (3 posting sets)	5	45	4, 8, 13
Totals	90	257	

COURSE SEQUENCE

Important: See the course schedule in the learning center for the due dates of your assignments.

8-Week	16-Week	Lessons	Assignments & Notes
1	1	1. The Need for Redemptive Influence	(Complete the progress report for each lesson)
	2	2. Theological Foundations	Reading: Crouch, pages 9-36
2	3	3. Defining and Assessing Culture	Reading: Crouch, pages 37-77
	4	4. Christ Against Culture	Reading: Crouch, pages 78-117 Forum posting #1 due

3	5	5. Accommodating to Culture	Reading: Crouch, pages 118-159
	6	6. Christ Over Culture	Reading: Crouch, pages 160-201
4	7	7. Dynamic Tension	Reading: Crouch, pages 202-248
	8	8. Redemptive Influence on Life Issues	Reading: Crouch, pages 249-268 Forum posting #2 due
5	9	9. Engaging in Popular Culture	Reading: first half of chosen book
	10	10. Engaging in Politics	Reading: second half of chosen book
6	11	11. A Redemptive Church	Reading Report due
	12	12. Globalization	Cultural Analysis paper due
7	13	13. Summary	Forum posting #3 due
	14		Countercultural Paper due On-time Verification (16 week course, ok to submit in week 15).
8	15		
	16		Course Evaluation and Reflection. If you have not been granted an extension, graded assignments turned in after 8:00 a.m. on Monday of the final week may be subject to a late penalty of up to 10% per day.

SUGGESTED BOOK LIST

Barna, George. Revolution
 Briner, Bob. Final Roar
 Budziszewski, J. Evangelicals in the Public Square
 Carson, D.A. Christ & Culture Revisited
 Carter, Craig. Rethinking Christ and Culture
 Clapp, Rodney. A Peculiar People
 Conder, Tim. The Church in Transition
 Crouch, Andy. Culture Making
 Detweiler, Craig. A Matrix of Meanings
 Erickson, Millard. The Postmodern World
 Fitch, David. The Great Giveaway
 Forster, Greg The Contested Public Square
 Friedman, Thomas. The Lexus and the Olive Tree
 Friedman, Thomas. The World is Flat
 Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. The Shaping of Things to Come
 Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. ReJesus
 Frost, Michael. Exiles
 Gibbs, Eddie. Emerging Churches
 Gilgoff, Dan. The Jesus Machine
 Grenz, Stanley. A Primer on Postmodernism
 Guinness, Os. Prophetic Untimeliness
 Guinness, Os. The Case For Civility
 Hirsch, Forgotten Ways
 Johnston, Robert. Reframing Theology and Film
 Kreeft, Peter. How to Win the Culture War
 Lewis, Robert. The Church of Irresistible Influence
 Lindsay, Michael. Faith in the Halls of Power
 Logan, Samuel. Confronting Kingdom Challenges

McLaren, Brian. More Ready Than You Realize
McLaren, Brian and Tony Campolo. Adventures in Missing the Point
McManus, Erwin. An Unstoppable Force
Merrill, Dean. Sinners in the Hands of an Angry Church
Milne, Bruce. Dynamic Diversity
Moore, T.M. Culture Matters
Niebuhr, H. Richard. Christ and Culture
Romanowski, William. Eyes Wide Open
Seay, Chris. The Gospel According to Tony Soprano
Schmidt, Alvin. Under the Influence
Smith, Chuck. The End of the World as We Know It
Stackhouse, Jr., John. Making the Best of It
Staub, Dick. Too Christian, Too Pagan
Stevens, Tim. Pop Goes the Culture
Storkey, Alan. Jesus and Politics
Sweet, Leonard. Carpe Manana
Sweet, Leonard. The Church in Emerging Culture
Sweetman, Brendan. Why Politics Needs Religion
Van Gelder, Craig. Confident Witness—Changing World
Vanhoozer, Kevin. Everyday Theology
Webber, Robert. Ancient-Future Faith
Webber, Robert. Younger Evangelicals
Wells, David. Above All Earthly Powers
Williams, D.H. Retrieving the Tradition & Renewing Evangelicalism

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Late Assignments: Student will receive on-time completion points for finishing their course according to the schedule. Students in the 8 week sessions are required to have all their course work into their course instructor by end of week 7. Students in the 16 week sessions are required to have all their work into their course instructor by end of week 15. If you have not been granted an extension, graded assignments turned in after 8:00 a.m. on Monday of the final week may be subject to a late penalty of up to 10% per day. No online completion points will be granted after that time.

Copyright Violation and Plagiarism: Research in secondary sources for the written project is permitted and welcomed. However, any appropriation of either ideas or wording taken from other sources, whether print or electronic, must be properly footnoted. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism which can result in substantial grade reduction or failure. Any unauthorized copying or use of copyrighted materials, including downloaded files of various kinds, can result in criminal charges and fines. For a fuller explanation of these issues or WS's copyright policy, see the Copyright Issues and Cheating" section of the Student Handbook: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/academic/handbook-copyright>.

Incompletes/Extensions:

In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, students may request one course extension of no more than 4 weeks. Registration for a distance education course is conditional upon the successful completion of any current course you are taking. If you have received an extension for your current course,

you are expected to finish your current courses before your next Online Campus course start date to stay registered.

If students face a personal emergency that requires requesting an extension going beyond the end of the semester, it may affect their ability to receive financial aid in the next semester, and they may face the possibility that their next semester's course registrations will be cancelled. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for assistance.

Audit/Enrichment Students: Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary: Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ashley Mitchell, at 503-517-1819/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1819. Her office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Student Services Coordinator – San Jose or Director of Student Services – Sacramento, or they may contact Ms Mitchell directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

Questions regarding this course or its materials should be directed to:

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