TITLE: Christian Political Resistance
TERM: Spring 2020-2021

PROFESSOR: John Burgess
CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: ________ UNLIMITED ______ X
# AUDITORS: Unlimited

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of different forms of Christian resistance to unjust political orders, focusing on ordinary virtues of truth-telling, caring, and dignity. Attention will be given to Biblical perspectives on justice and on resistance to oppressive state regimes; historical examples of Christian political resistance; theological reflection on different forms of resistance and how they express or violate the gospel; and philosophical and ethical analysis of the grounds for, and effectiveness of, different forms of political resistance.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: By the completion of this course, students will be able to examine and explain:
1) the way in which “ordinary” Christian virtues (especially of truth-telling, caring, and dignity) are grounded in Scripture and particular theological traditions.
2) how these virtues have served in specific historical contexts as forms of resistance to oppressive political regimes (e.g., Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and Jim Crow America).
3) possibilities for exercising these virtues in political resistance to structural social injustices in contemporary America.

PREREQUISITES: CH110, CH120, CS110

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:
5. Additional readings will be posted to MYPTS

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
Reading response papers; class participation (50%); Final paper (50%)

ATTENDANCE: Required