

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: Christians, Nationalism, and War

TERM: Fall 2022-2023

PROFESSOR: John Burgess

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course invites students to reflect theologically on questions of nationalism and war. When if ever can Christians support national self-interest and war? The course will draw on classical and contemporary resources to address current armed conflicts (in 2022, we will be thinking especially about the war in Ukraine).

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. Examine biblical and historical foundations of different theological positions on the nation and war
2. Compare major contemporary theological positions on the nation and war
3. Draw from class resources to assess how Christians should respond to current armed conflicts in which different national self-interests are at stake
4. Draw from class resources to determine how God is at work in the midst of war

PREREQUISITES: CH110 and CH120, or instructor's permission

REQUIRED TETBOOKS/READINGS:

Required:

- Augustine, *The City of God* (Book 19)
- Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* III/4 (sections on "Near and Distant Neighbours" and on war)
- J. Glenn Gray, *The Warriors*, Bison Books, 1998; ISBN: 978-0803270763, \$13.99
- Stanley Hauerwas, *The Peaceable Kingdom*, University of Notre Dame Press, 1991; ISBN: 978-0268015541, \$23.59
- Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream"
- Richard B. Miller, ed., *War in the Twentieth Century: Sources in Theological Ethics* (selections from the Niebuhr brothers)
- Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness*, University of Chicago Press, 2011; ISBN: 978-0226584003, \$18.00

Suggested text:

- Hannah Arendt, *Between Past and Future*, Penguin, 2006; ISBN: 978-0143104810, \$17.99
- James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, Yale University Press, 1991; ISBN: 978-0300056693, \$24.00

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Short reflection papers; sermon; final project

ATTENDANCE: Required