211 - CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

SEMESTER I - 1998-99
9:40 - 11:10, Tu, Th; 325 B
PROFESSOR MICHAEL MCLAIN
Office: 413 Clough; office hours, 3-5 Tu, W.

TEXTS:

1. C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (MC)
3. Xerox materials. Purchase from Rhodes College bookstore.

MOVIES:

1. “Dead Man Walking” (View outside of class before Sept. 16)
2. “Romero” (View outside of class before

ASSIGNMENTS:

Orthodox Christianity and Classical Theism

August 27 Introduction
September 1 MC: Preface, BK. 1
3 MC: BK. 2; “Christ and Salvation,” “NT Christological Passages”(X)
8 MC: BK. 2 - continued; R. Swinburne, “The Christian Scheme of Salvation”(X)
10 MC: BK. 3
15 Interlude: Punishment, Divine and Human
17 MC: BK. 3 - continued
Paper Due in Class
22 MC: BK. 4 - sections 1-6; Xerox

Ancient and Modern Worldviews

24 Bultmann, “Jesus Among the Historians” “Portraits of Jesus...”(X)

October 1 Bultmann, continued
A Revisionist Theology

8 Tillich, “The Eternal Now”, “Loneliness and Solitude”(X)
13 Tillich, “Being, Nonbeing, and Anxiety”(X)
15 Tillich, “Symbols of Faith”(X)
Tillich, “You are Accepted,” “The Depth of Existence”(X)

FALL RECESS OCTOBER 16-21.

Second Christianity

22 Hick: Chapter 1 and Introduction(X)
27 Hick: Chapter 2, and pp. 102-109(X)
29 Hick: Chapter 5, pp. 93-102; Hick: Chapter 6, “Death”(X)

November 3 TEST

Process Theology and Neoclassical Theism

5 Cobb, chps. 1, 2, 5.
10 Cobb, chps. 3, 6.
12 Cobb, chps. 4, 7, 9

Recent Trends

Biblical Literalism/Fundamentalism

11 Film: The Glory and the Power
13 “Fighting Back: Protestant Fundamentalism in the United States”

Latin American Liberation Theology

[The movie Romero must be viewed outside of class before April 12]

18 Discussion of Romero and Brown, pp. 1-50.
20 Gutierrez, “God’s Revelation and Proclamation in History,”
Brown, pp. 51-88
22 No Class
25 No Class
December 2 Brown, pp. 89-127
Feminist Theology

4 C. S. Lewis, “Priestesses in the Church?;” Ziegler, “Hierarchy and...”

Christian Uniqueness

9 Hick, “Christianity and Other Religions,” “The Soteriological...”
   “Salvation/Liberation...”
11 Hick, continued. Review.

Final Exam

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

1. Students are required to read all assignments. Participation in class constitutes 5% of grade.
2. Take two tests. Each constitutes 20% of grade.
3. Take a final exam. 35% of grade.
4. One paper, 5 pages. 20% of grade.

ENCOURAGEMENTS

1. Students are required to attend class. A written notice of absence must be given. More than two (2) absences will result in a conversation with the instructor. More than three (3) absences will lower the grade by one half a letter.
2. Students are expected to do the readings assigned for the day before class and participate in discussions.
3. Students are encouraged to be of good cheer, stout heart.

4. You will probably impress the professor by feigning an interest in his class; you will definitely impress the professor by giving good reasons for points you make in class!