



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Social Problems: LCPC3396-01

Fall 2021 (Online)

Instructor Name: Kendall Wolz MA, PLPC

Instructor Title: Adjunct Instructor

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will develop an increased awareness of social problems and the potential ramifications they have for individuals, families, the church and the community. Proposed and attempted solutions to these problems will be evaluated and critiqued. Students will also explore how the church addresses or fails to address these problems and how these problems impact mental health. *Prerequisite: None*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Develop an awareness of various social problems and their impact on society.
2. Demonstrate advocacy solutions to social problems.
3. Evaluate proposed and/or attempted solutions for social problems discussed in class.
4. Analyze how the church addresses various social problems.
5. Discuss the impact of social problems on mental health.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

Cannon, Mae Elise. *Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

The following movies are required:

McCartney, Stella. *The True Cost*. Directed by Andrew Morgan. Life is My Move, 2015.

*Available for free on Amazon Prime. May be available on Netflix.

Peters, David, and Kathi Peters. *Find Me*. Directed by David Peters. Vision Video, 2015.

*Available for free on Amazon Prime.

Witherspoon, Reese. *The Good Lie*. Directed by Philippe Falardeau. Warner Brothers, 2014.

*Available to rent or buy on Amazon Prime.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Because of the course format and type, online participation is essential. While you are not required to be online at a certain time, you will be responsible for *frequent* and *substantial* online participation. Online participation will include your discussion board posts, reflective submissions, and a video recording of your research findings. Additionally, you will have access to work for designated periods only. Once work has disappeared from Blackboard, you will no longer be able to access it. If you are astute, you will pay attention to the Course Schedule and plan accordingly.
2. EXAMS: will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and discussion questions. Students should not assume the study guide, if one is given, is comprehensive to what will be on the exam. If an emergency prevents a student from taking a scheduled exam, it is that student's responsibility to reschedule with the instructor. If a student misses an exam and does not get preapproval from the instructor and/or cannot provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, death of loved one) they will not be allowed to make up the exam. The exam must be made up within one week of the missed exam. After one week, the student will earn a grade of 0 for the assignment.
3. PERSONAL REFLECTION: throughout the semester, each student will be required to complete personal reflection exercises found in the textbook. Personal reflection exercises must be submitted on Blackboard via the "Journal" link. A list of the assigned exercises and due dates is provided on the calendar below.
4. DISCUSSION BOARD: this course will utilize group reflection exercises through the completion of Discussion Boards. After reading and doing the assignments needed for the Discussion Board, create an Original Post that is at least two substantial paragraphs in response to the questions or activities given in each unit. Make sure all questions asked are covered in your Original Post. Check your spelling! Original posts are due Thursday by 11:55 pm of the week of the assignment. Respond to at least two of your classmate's Original Posts with substantial comments or to the professor's comments. Responses are due by Sunday 11:55 pm of the week of the assignment.

5. **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** each student will be required to complete 10 hours of community service at an approved site. Approved sites will include those that relate to social problems that will be discussed in the course. Upon completion of the 10 hours, students will write a 3-5 page reflection paper regarding their experience.
6. Each student will be required to complete a research paper on a social problems that is *not* being covered in the course. The social problem must be approved with the professor as duplicate topics are not allowed. The paper must be 7-10 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12, and should adhere to Turabian guidelines. The research topic will be due for approved by Sunday, September 12 with the research paper being due on Sunday, October 31.
7. **PRESENTATION:** students will also be required to record and submit a 20 minute presentation on their research findings. Recording and submission instructions will be shared through Blackboard. Presentations are due December 2, 2021 as a discussion board post.
8. **FINAL EXAM:** the final exam for this course will be a 3-5 page reflection paper. This reflection paper should focus on what the student has learned through this course. The paper should also include how the student senses God's leadership to be involved with one of the social problems that was discussed in class and how to raise awareness of the problems within his/her church or ministry setting.

GRADING SCALE

A: 93 – 100
 B: 85 – 92
 C: 77 – 84
 D: 70 – 76
 F: below 70

Final Grade Tabulation

Assignments	20%
Discussion Boards	30%
Community Service Project	10%
Research Paper/Presentation	20%
Mid-Term Exam	10%
Final Exam	<u>10%</u>
	100%

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1	8/16-8/22	Introduction/Welcome		Discussion Board 1: Introduce Yourself Discussion Board 2: Top 10 Social Problems Discussion Board 3: Defining Social Problems

2	8/23-8/29	God's Heart for Justice	Ch. 1	Assignment 1: Journal Discussion Board 4: God's Heart for Justice
3	8/30-9/5	Social Justice: Defining the Issue	Ch. 2	Discussion Board 5: Defining the Issue of Social Justice
4	9/6-9/12	A History of Christian Social Justice in the Americas	Ch. 3	Assignment 2: Christian Social Justice Timeline Research Paper Topic Due
5	9/13-9/19	Moving from Apathy to Advocacy	Ch. 4 "The Good Lie"	Discussion Board 6: Moving from Apathy to Advocacy
6	9/20-9/26	Solutions to Injustice	Ch. 5	Discussion Board 7: Solutions to Injustice
7	9/27-10/3	Mid-Term Exam		Mid-Term Exam on Blackboard Due Sunday, October 3 at 11:59 pm
	10/4-10/10	Fall Break		
8	10/11-10/17	Foster Care/Adoption	p. 159-161 "Find Me"	Discussion Board 8: Foster Care/Adoption Assignment 3: Find Me Documentary
9	10/18-10/24	AIDS	p. 122-129	Discussion Board 9: AIDS Facts Discussion Board 10: AIDS Ministries
10	10/25-10/31	Incarceration	p. 187-190	Discussion Board 11: Incarceration Research Paper Due
11	11/1-11/7	Human Trafficking/Child Soldiers	p. 136-137; 211-213; 227-228;	Discussion Board 12: Human Trafficking

			231-233; Trauma-Coerced Bonding & Victims of Sex Trafficking Article	
12	11/8-11/14	Poverty	p. 201-211	Assignment 4: Journal Exercise Assignment 5: Journal Exercise
13	11/15-11/21	Fair Trade	"The True Cost" Documentary	Discussion Board 13: Fair Trade Community Service Project Due
	11/22-11/28	Thanksgiving Break		
14	11/29-12/5	Student Presentation of Research Projects Final Exam		Research Presentations Due 12/2/2021 Discussion Board 14: Student Presentations Final Exam Due in Assignment Folder on Blackboard by Sunday, December 5 at 11:59 pm

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: Students are expected to submit all assignments on time. Late submissions will be accepted; however, there will be ½ letter grade deduction (3.5 points) per day the assignment is late.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered*

public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.

4. *Classroom and Online Decorum*: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. *Special Needs*: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. *Emergency Plan*: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. *Technical Assistance*: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/
8. *Style Guide*: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or it can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf
9. *COVID-19*: During the COVID-19 pandemic Leavell College is abiding by all New Orleans governmental guidelines and CDC safety guidelines. Students are expected to abide by such policies while on campus.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Clark, Chap, and Kara E. Powell. *Deep Justice in a Broken World: Helping Your Kids Serve Others and Right the Wrongs around Them*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.
- Clark, Jerusha, with Dr. Earl Hensin. *Inside a Cutter's Mind: Understanding and Helping those Who Self-Injure*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007.
- Fikkert, Brian, and Steve Corbett. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*. Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Finsterbusch, Kurt. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Social Issues*. 14th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Companies, 2006.

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- Johnson, Abby, and Cindy Lambert. *Unplanned*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2010.
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- Keller, Tim. *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2010.
- Merida, Tony, and Rick Morton. *Orphanology: Awakening to Gospel-Centered Adoption and Orphan Care*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 2011.
- Mooney, Linda A., David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. *Understanding Social Problems*, 5th ed, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning, Inc, 2007.
- Moore, Russell. *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches*. Crossway Books & Bibles, 2009.
- Platt, David. *Counter Culture*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015.
- Sider, Ronald. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- Smith, Wesley. *Forced Exit: Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and the New Duty to Die*. New York, NY: Encounter Books, 2006.
- Stafford, Wess. *Too Small to Ignore: Why the Least of These Matters Most*. New York, NY: Random House, Inc, 2007.
- Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in Our Gospel*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2010.
- Vernick, Leslie. *The Emotionally Destructive Relationship: Stopping it, Surviving It*. Harvest House Publishing, 2007.
- Woo, Rodney. *The Color of Church: A Biblical and Practical Paradigm for Multiracial Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishing, 2009.