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IS 501 Kingdom, Church, and World

Hugo Magallanes

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Warning! Preliminary Syllabus Books and Media will be as stated: Other Elements Subject to *Minor* Changes

Asbury Theological Seminary Fall 03

Course Name:

IS501ExL Christian Formation: Kingdom, Church, and World

Instructor:

Hugo Magallanes, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Church in Society
8401 Valencia College Lane
Orlando, FL 32765
Office (407) 482-7655
Fax (407) 482-7575
E-mail: Hugo_Magallanes@asburyseminary.edu

Office Hours:

Thursday from 9:00 am - 11:30 am ET

ExL Support Team:

For technical difficulties with FirstClass: Contact Jared Porter, ExL Support, at Exl_Support@asburyseminary.edu

For general concerns, questions, or problems email Extended_Learning@asburyseminary.edu or contact Kevin Osborn at ExL_Director@asburyseminary.edu

For library assistance contact Hannah_Kirsh@asburyseminary.edu

Obtaining Library Materials and Reference Assistance

All ExL students are encouraged to make use of their local library. However, if such services are unavailable or inadequate, ExL students may also obtain library books and journal articles through the mail from Asbury Theological Seminary's B. L. Fisher Library. All requests for books and journal articles should be emailed to the ExL Reference Librarian, Hannah Kirsch (Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu).

Hannah is also available to assist ExL students with reference requests such as how to find citations for books and articles, how to use the various online databases available to ExL students, or how to begin looking for information on a specific topic.

To request material from the B.L. Fisher Library, begin by searching the library's WebPac (online catalog of the library's holdings) or one of the journal databases available on the ExL Virtual Library webpage (found in the Resource Center of your ExL classroom). Then send an email to Hannah citing the sources that you would like to request. If you need help searching the

databases, do not hesitate to ask. Please allow 5-10 business days for all requests to be filled. ExL students are billed for the cost of photocopies (5 cents per page) and the cost of shipping. Express mail services (price varies according to weight) and faxing (\$1.50 for the first page and 25 cents for each additional page plus photocopy charges) are also available, but material will generally take 1-2 days from the receipt of the request to be processed. Plan ahead and make your requests early.

Windows and Icons:

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and the professor, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The (Class Number) Office is for private correspondence between you and the professor. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. *Remember:* None of the conversations carried on in this location are ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, chapel services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio Player.

Introduction of the Course:

What is the mission of the church? Behind this question is a cluster of related questions, the most important focused on the nature of God's creative and redemptive purpose, its ongoing expression in the world, and its consummation in the eschaton. Participants in this course will explore how the church might discern, embrace, and participate in God's own mission.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate their understanding of the biblical metanarrative that comes to focus for us best in Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God;
2. Identify the particular contribution of the Wesleyan tradition to our understanding of this metanarrative;
3. Draw out major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative, especially as these are related to the nature and mission of the people of God;

4. Evaluate cultural products (e.g., literature, television, movies, advertisements, print media, music) in light of major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative;
5. Exercise criticism with respect to one's own cultural context and discernment with respect to the context of others vis-à-vis major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative;
6. Articulate the ecclesial and missional implications of this metanarrative – specifically for one's own context and generally for our shared global context; and
7. Exhibit a heightened sense of commitment to serving the kingdom of God in mission in the world.

Required Reading:

Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People*. InterVarsity Press, 1996.
 Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Abingdon
 McClaren, Brian D. *A New Kind of Christian*. Jossey-Bass, 2001.
 Snyder, Howard. *A Kingdom Manifesto*. Wipf and Stock, 1997
 Wright, N.T. *The Challenge of Jesus*. InterVarsity, 1999.

Required Media:

Each student in the class will be responsible for buying/renting the movie **Romero (Vidmark Entertainment 1989, PG-13, 105 min., with Raul Julia)** and have it ready for the week of Nov. 20, 2003.

Recommended Reading:

Clapp, Rodney. *Border Crossings*. Brazos Press
 Hauerwas, Stanley. *A Community of Character*. University of Notre Dame
 Newbigin, Leslie. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*.
 Eerdmans
 Stackhouse, Max. *The Church in a Global Era*. Eerdmans

Evaluation:

- Active and Substantive Participation in On-Line Conferences. (25%)
 Each student in the class will have an IS501 icon in their First Class e-mail, and each small group will have a team folder for their On-Line Conferences where you will find questions and other items for discussion and group interaction posted by the professor.
- Kingdom Project (15 %)
 Each student in is required to spend 12 hours of personal work/involvement in a “Kingdom Project.” A Kingdom Project will be defined as involvement in a group ministry of some kind that touches the lives of those outside of the church with the presence of the Kingdom of God. Possibilities for the Kingdom Project may include a ministry within which a student is already participating. In the “Kingdom Project” is

where the student will apply some of the key theological concepts of the class in a tangible/concrete way, thus the student is expected to actively participate in this project by serving in a church, para-church, social service agency, or any other ministry/organization in which the student would be able to serve others and his/her community. Acceptable places where one may serve are: Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Shelter, etc. After completion of the Kingdom Project, each student will share his/her experience by writing an integrative paper, in which the student will describe his/her participation in the project *and* will integrate class readings and discussions as the theological foundations for his/her work. This reflection paper is due on: **Thursday, Nov. 20**. The goal of the paper is to integrate experiences received through the kingdom project with the reading and discussion done for this class. Please write no less than three and no more than five pages. The reflection must be typed with 12 point font, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing.

- Mid-Term: Open-book exam; Students will receive it on 10/16 due on 10/23 (30%)
- Final-Exam: Due 12/11 (30 %)

Grade Range: Work for IS501 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

<i>A = 95-100% Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>	<i>D+ = 67-69% Minimal work</i>
<i>A- = 90-94% Far above average, fine work</i>	<i>D = 63-66% barely acceptable</i>
<i>B+ = 87-89% Above average for graduate work</i>	<i>D- = 60-62% for specific assignment</i>
<i>B = 83-86% Very good, average for graduate work</i>	<i>F = 59% or below Failure.</i>
<i>B- = 80-82% Slightly below average for graduate work</i>	
<i>C+ = 77-79% Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>	
<i>C = 73-76% Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>	
<i>C- = 70-72% Meets requirements, but serious gaps</i>	

Incomplete Work: “A grade of ‘I’ denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an *unavoidable emergency*, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of the course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as ‘F.’ ” From ATS 2001-03 Catalog p. 29 (emphasis added)

Notes on Small Groups:

The first week of class you will be assigned to a small group of five persons. This group will be an essential part of the class. With these five people you will work on assigned material, process readings and class material and work together on a Kingdom project.

Online Discussion Guidelines:

1. Your same small group will also participate in online discussion related to the course material. You will need to have an Asbury Seminary e-mail address to access the class folder on First Class Client.

2. Every other week your team will discuss the question as it is posted within the team folder.
3. This class feature calls for good “e-manners.” Please limit each posting to 50 words or less [unless instructed to do otherwise]. Remember that your team members do not benefit from hearing your tone of voice or seeing your body language, *so be careful how you put things in writing!* You may be perceived as shouting, when you only meant to add an emphasis.
4. The professor will monitor and grade the team interaction and discussion assignments that occur via e-conference.

Some examples of evaluative criteria may include:

1. Did you give a succinct, understandable statement that reflected your understanding of the course material and its relationship to the question posed?
2. Did you reflect critically on the interface between course content and personal experience?
3. Did you post your own answers/responses in a timely way, so as to promote conversation among the members of your team?
4. How effective were you in generating ideas/proposals for group interaction?
5. How effective were you in your engagement with the ideas/proposals generated by others on your Team?
6. Did you respond to your Teammates as per the instructions for the exercise?
7. Did you attend to issues of form and style appropriate to academic writing?

Course Schedule:

Introduction

Week 1 – Sep. 4 Introductions and Organization of the Course

- Introductions and General Overview
 - Course Objectives
 - Course Procedures
 - Small Groups: Selection, Process, Leadership, and Expectations
 - Conferences: Selection, Process and Expectations
- Required Reading for next week: Clapp, pp. 9-75; Wright, pp. 13-33

Module One: Kingdom – Living the Biblical Story

Module Objectives

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the importance of “story;”
2. Discern how cultural products participate in inviting us into certain stories;
3. Articulate the basis for the unity of Scripture in the overarching plan of God, from Creation to New Creation;
4. Articulate the hermeneutical importance of the incarnation for understanding the biblical story;

5. Articulate how Wesley's understanding of the soteriological journey serves as a hermeneutical compass for reading the biblical story;

Week 2 – Sep. 11 Narrative, Post Modernism, and the Biblical Story

Required Reading for next week: Wright, pp. 34-73; Snyder, pp. 9-76

Week 3 – Sep. 18 Old Testament

Required Reading for next week: Wright, pp. 74-149

Week 4 – Sep. 25 New Testament

Required Reading for next week: Wright, pp. 150-197; Clapp, pp. 76-93.

Week 5 – Oct. 2 Thematic integration of Scripture and Wesley's Order of Salvation

Required Reading for next week: McLaren, pp. 1-53; Clapp, pp. 94-125.

Week 6 – Oct. 9 Who are the People of God?

Required Reading for next week: McClaren, pp. 54-93; Clapp, pp. 140-157.

Module Two: Kingdom and Church

Particular Objectives

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

1. Enumerate significant ways in which the ongoing life of the people of God participates in and extends the biblical story;
2. Articulate how kingdom-living relates to a community of believers;
3. Articulate an ecclesiology oriented around participation in the kingdom;

Articulate basic forms of ecclesial practice (e.g., hospitality, mission) that are a necessary outgrowth of an ecclesial commitment to performing the kingdom.

Week 7 – Oct. 16 The People of God Through History

Required Reading for next week: Clapp 158-171; McLaren, pp. 94-165

Assignment: Take Home Exam

Week 8 – Oct. 23 The People of God in Contemporary Context

Required Reading for next week: Clapp, pp. 172-212; Snyder, pp. 79-120

Assignment: Mid-Term Exam Due today, October 23

Module Three: Kingdom, Church, and World

Particular Objectives

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the significance of the kingdom in terms of its cosmological and eschatological significance (rather than in individual and subjective terms);
 2. Demonstrate that they have begun the process of thinking theologically – i.e., situating life within the interpretive and critical horizons of a theological vision of the purpose of God for creation that comes into focus best in Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom;
 3. Draw out inferences of this view of the kingdom with respect to a range of social-ethical issues (e.g., racial reconciliation, environmental ethics, gender issues);
- Demonstrate the importance of understanding one's world in performing the kingdom;

Week 9 – Oct. 30 Listening to the World

Required Reading for next week: Clapp, pp. 126-139; Hauerwas & Willimon, pp. 1-48

Week 10—Nov. 6 Acting in the World

Required Reading for next week: Hauerwas & Willimon, pp. 49-111

Week 11 – Nov. 13 Speaking to the World: Witness & Worship

Required Reading for next week: Hauerwas & Willimon , pp. 112-172

Week 12 – Nov. 20 Watch Movie *Romero*

Required Reading for next week: NO Reading Required for next week.

Week 13 – Nov. 27 No Class Today! Enjoy your Fall Reading Week.

Week 14 – Dec. 4 Thy Kingdom Come

Reading: Prepare for Final Exam

Week 15 — Dec. 11 Final Exam