

## Asbury Theological Seminary ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

---

Syllabi

eCommons

---

1-1-2000

# CS 740 Ethics of Hospitality and Contemporary Challenges

Christine Pohl

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

---

### Recommended Citation

Pohl, Christine, "CS 740 Ethics of Hospitality and Contemporary Challenges" (2000). *Syllabi*. Book 429.  
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/429>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact [thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu).

**Ethics of Hospitality and Contemporary Challenges**  
**CS740, January 2000**  
**Asbury Theological Seminary/Orlando**  
**Dr. Christine Pohl, Professor**

**Purpose:** To introduce students to the Christian tradition of offering hospitality to strangers and to enable students to use that moral framework in developing a pastoral response to contemporary issues of diversity and inclusion in church and society.

Objectives:

1. Introduce students to biblical texts on hospitality, to various historical practices of hospitality in the church, and to contemporary practices and theoretical discussions of hospitality.
2. Enable students to reflect on the tensions between maintaining a distinctive Christian identity and welcoming strangers.
3. Help students articulate a theology and practice of hospitality that can address issues of cultural diversity, race relations, homelessness, refugees, migrant workers, and persons with disabilities.
4. Help students recognize the difficulties, limitations, and challenges of Christian hospitality.

**Telephone Number and Office Location:** Work: 606 858-2284; Home 606 8588136; Office is on Wilmore campus in McPheeters Center, Level 3, Room 308.

**Student Responsibilities:** This course is designed as a seminar. It is therefore essential that students come to class having read the assigned material carefully and critically. Class attendance and active participation in discussions are expected.

**Written Work:** Assignments involve four brief integrative/reflection papers and a research paper or project.

**The first three assignments are due on the first day of class:**

**Paper #1:** Write a one page (single-spaced) letter to one of the main characters in *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*. Reflect on how the testimony of his or her hospitality and community challenged you morally and spiritually. Be specific.

**Paper #2:** A coalition of churches in your town is thinking about responding to the latest refugee crisis by assisting in the resettlement of several families. There is mixed response within the congregations-some parishioners are very supportive; others remain unconvinced. The pastors in town have asked you to do a devotional on "Welcoming Strangers." Leaning heavily on the biblical and historical materials you have read for the course, write a devotional that would help parishioners understand the biblical and moral importance of hospitality to needy strangers. (3 pages, double-spaced).

**Paper #3:** Write a three page (double-spaced) paper that articulates a theology of welcome. Integrate the material from Miroslav Volf's *Exclusion and Embrace* with the other readings.

**The last two assignments are due on January 28, 2000:**

**Paper #4:** Immersion and Reflection-Spend 3-5 hours in a place that cares for the needs of strangers. If possible, help out with the tasks. Be careful to observe as much as possible about guest/host relations, power and empowerment, setting, and explicit and implicit messages about welcome and respect. Write a 3 page (double-spaced) paper reflecting on your experience in light of some of the key themes we have covered in class.

**Paper #5:** Final Project-to be developed in individual consultation with the professor (15 pages, double-spaced). Three general types of papers/projects are possible:

1. Research paper on ministry with a vulnerable population: homeless people, migrant workers, people with disabilities or terminal illnesses, refugees.
2. Develop a curriculum for use in the local church, student work, or youth ministries using hospitality as a framework for moral formation.
3. Research paper on the moral implications of hospitality for missions practice and missionaries.

**Grading:**

Paper #1: Letter to main character in <i>Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed</i>	5%
Paper #2: Devotional on Welcoming Strangers	15%
Paper #3: Paper on Theology of Welcome	20%
Paper #4: Immersion and Reflection	15%
Paper #5: Research Paper or Project	35%
Class participation and readings	10%

**Sources for Assigned Readings:**

Available from the Asbury Bookstore

Philip Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*. NY: HarperCollins, 1979, 1994.

Christine Pohl, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999.

Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

Henri Nouwen, *Reaching Out*. NY: Image, 1975.

Brett Webb-Mitchell, *Unexpected Guests at God's Banquet: Welcoming People with Disabilities into the Church*. NY: Crossroad, 1994.

Bernard Adeney, *Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Other readings are in *Ethics of Hospitality Packet* also available in bookstore

**Reading Assignments:** Because this is a one-week, intensive class, it is essential that students read all of the assigned readings prior to class.

**Read assigned texts in the following order:**

Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed* (entire book) Pohl, *Making Room* (entire book) Packet (Scripture verses through Schaeffer, selection from *What is a Family? Volf, Exclusion and Embrace*, pages 13-165 Nouwen, *Reaching Out*, pages 65-109 Webb-Mitchell, *Unexpected Guests*, pages 1- 13, 46-49, 71-109, 130-155, 70-184 Adeney, *Strange Virtues*, pages 13-141, 163-191 Packet (finish the readings)

**Class Sessions**

**Monday, January 10: Hospitality and the Moral Life**

Block 1: Images, themes, questions, and introductions

Block 2: Discussion of the hospitality of the community of Le Chambon

**Tuesday, January 11: Understanding the Historical Background of the Practice of Hospitality**

Block 1: Biblical Sources for the Hospitality Tradition

Block 2: Overview of the Ancient Tradition

Block 3: Hospitality as Recognition and Respect

**Wednesday, January 12: Understanding the Tensions; Developing a Theology of Welcome**

Block 1: Marginality, Power, Possessions, and Places

Block 2: Community, Boundaries, and Limits

Block 3: Developing a Moral Theology of Hospitality

**Thursday, January 13: Application to Particular Groups and Contexts**

Block 1: Welcoming People with Disabilities

Block 2: Hospitality and Cross-cultural or Multiethnic Ministry

Block 3: Hospitality and Issues of Race

Block 4: Class field trip

**Friday, January 14: Implications for Ministry**

Block 1: Pastoral Ministry in the Local Church

Block 2: Ministry in the Larger Community

Block 3: Nurturing a Difficult Practice

**Selected Biblical Texts  
related to  
Hospitality and Strangers**

**Read and reflect on the following:**

Old Testament Narratives on Hospitality:

Genesis 18

Genesis 19:1-29

Joshua 2

Judges 19

1 Samuel 25

1 Kings 17

2 Kings 4:8-37

Israel as sojourner/stranger (ger): Gen. 15:5-18, Lev. 25:23, Deut. 26:5-11, 1 Chron. 29:14-15.

Israel's treatment of sojourners (a few of many passages): Ex. 23:9; Lev. 19: 33-34; Deut. 10: 18-19, 14:28-29, 24:14-22, 26:1-15.

Hospitality in the Gospels

Matthew 7:7-8; 11:28-30; 25:31-46

Mark 10:13-14

Luke 5:27-32; 7:36-50; 8:1-3; 9:1-6, 10-17; 10:5-7, 25-42; 14:1-24; 19: 1 - 10; 22:7-30; 24:13-35

John 1; 6:1-59; 7:37-39; 13:1-20; 21:1-19

Explicit references to hospitality (*philoxenia*) in the epistles: Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2; 1 Pet. 4:9, 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8.

Other important New Testament passages:

Acts 2:42-47; Acts chapters 10, 11, 15

Romans 12:9-16, 15:7

1 Corinthians 5:9- 11; 11: 17-34

Galatians 2:11-14

Ephesians 2:11-22

1 Timothy 5:9-10

James 2:1-13

1 Peter 1: 1-2, 17-19; 2:9-12; 4:7-9.

2 John 9-11, 3 John 5- 10