

INDS 556: CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS TRADITIONS AND CURRENT VALUES

John Owen

July 25 – 29; 1:30 – 4:30 pm

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

In-person, live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In some societies today, Christians are deeply divided by political allegiances from their neighbours and from one another. The stakes seem so high and biblical teaching about government so clear and urgent that agreement on politics has become, for many, a virtual test of faith. In this course we take a step or two back from current events, examining three robust traditions of Christianity and politics: Roman Catholic, Reformed (Calvinist), and Anabaptist. All are thoroughly Christian, but each has a distinctive history, set of principles, and general guidelines for how the individual Christian and the Church ought to relate to the political realm in thought and action. Students will be encouraged to compare these traditions to those of their own church. We will use all of these traditions to look at a set of important issues in politics across many countries today, including secularism and pluralism, digital media and politics, race, and international relations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Describe and analyse the history and principles of Catholic, Reformed, and Anabaptist traditions of Christianity and politics
2. Compare and contrast these traditions to one another and to their own tradition or understanding
3. Apply the various traditions to various important political and social issues of our own time in their own countries

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 July 25 Biblical Texts, and The Roman Catholic Tradition

Day 2 July 26 The Anabaptist Tradition

Day 3 July 27 The Reformed Tradition

Day 4 July 28 Contemporary Questions; Pluralism and Liberalism; Race

Day 5 July 29 More Contemporary Questions; The Environment; Nationalism v Internationalism

REQUIRED TEXTS

For purchase from the Regent College Bookstore:

Black, Amy E., and Stanley N. Gundry, eds., *Five Views on the Church and Politics* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2015), chs. 1, 4, and 5.

Looking for textbooks? Please [contact](#) the Regent Bookstore, or check out their [direct-fulfillment website, Aerio](#).

Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

