

California Lutheran University

Bachelor's Degree for Professionals

REL 350 / CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Spring Term 2016, California Lutheran University
 Wednesdays, 6:00-9:30pm, Oxnard 115
 February 29-May 12, 2016

Dr. Victor Thasiah,
vthasiah@callutheran.edu
 Office: Humanities 217, T.O. campus
 Office hours: Tuesdays 2:15-3:30pm,
 Wed 2:00-3:30pm, Thur 2:15-3:30pm,
 or by appointment

Course Description

An introduction to contemporary Christian ethics; its relationship to the Bible and Christian communities; and thinking on important personal and social issues such as racial and ethnic relations, poverty and economic issues, and the environment.

Required Textbooks

- 1) Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*, 2013.
- 2) Naomi Klein, *The Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*, 2014.

Course Requirements

Students are permitted two absences, no questions asked, no explanation needed. Starting with the third absence, one's overall course grade is lowered 10% per absence. Students are responsible for all course material covered, assignments given, and items due during absence. Late work results in 10% deduction in assignment grade per day late. Use of electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops) in class is permissible only when directed for particular class assignments (not for general note-taking); otherwise use is not permitted. (Repeated failure to comply with this rule will negatively affect academic pursuit grade.)

- **Academic pursuit:** ongoing instructor assessment of engagement with and completion of reading and homework assignments; quality and consistency of attention and engagement in class; and quality and consistency of contribution in class work. Access to assigned reading for each class session should always be brought to class. Repeated failure to do so will negatively affect academic pursuit grade. (100 points total; 50 points for each half of the term)
 - 1) **Academic pursuit, first half of term** (50 points)
 - 2) **Academic pursuit, second half of term** (50 points)
 - 3) **Discussion-board work** (60 points)
 - 4) **In-class journal entries** (90 points)
 - 5) **Research paper** (100 points)
 - 6) **Research presentation** (25 points)

7) Final examination (100 points)

Grading (475 points total) A = excellent; B = very good; C = good; D = satisfactory) A = 93-100%; A- = 90-92.9%; B+ = 88-89.9%; B = 83-87.9%; B- = 80-82.9%; C+ = 78-79.9%; C = 73-77.9%; C- = 70-72.9%; D+ = 68-69.9%; D = 63-67.9%; D- = 60-62.9%; F = 59.9% & below

Activity	Instructor-Led Hours		Homework Hours		Remarks
	Weekly	Course	Weekly	Course	
Readings of required text				60	Over 11 weeks, uneven distribution
Weekly classes	3 hr. 20 min.	36 hrs. 40 min.			Includes final exam
Discussion-board work		13 hrs. 20 min.			Average, varies by student
Research paper				25	Average, varies by student
Research presentation				5	Average, varies by student
Final exam preparation				10	Average, varies by student
Total		50		100	

COURSE SCHEDULE (schedule subject to revision according to professor discretion)

Wed 3/2 Course Introduction

Wed 3/9 Moral Crisis, Context, Call

- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, "Opening Words," Chapters 1-2

March 14 – Last day to add; last day to drop (without a "W" or financial penalty)

Wed 3/16 Structural Violence

- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 3
- Reading due: Naomi Klein, "Introduction"

Wed 3/23 Unmasking Evil

- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 4
- Reading due: Naomi Klein, Chapter 1

Wed 3/30 Countering Moral Oblivion

- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 5
- Reading due: Naomi Klein, Chapter 9

15-Point Extra Credit Possibility: Willis Jenkins, “Cultivating the Sky: How the Ethics of Food Matters to the Politics of Climate Change,” Thurs., Mar. 31, Lundring, Thousand Oaks Campus

- Wed 4/6 Theology, Hope, and Power
- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 6
 - Reading due: Naomi Klein, Chapter 10

April 11 – Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

- Wed 4/13 Love: Mystery and Practical Reality
- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 7
 - Reading due: Naomi Klein, Chapter 11

- Wed 4/20 Love: Ecological and Economic Vocation
- Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 8
 - Reading due: Naomi Klein, Chapter 12

- Wed 4/27 Love’s Moral Framework
- **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
 - Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chapter 9
 - Reading due: Naomi Klein, Chapter 13

- Wed 5/4 Love in Action: Resistance and Rebuilding
- **RESEARCH PRESENTATION DUE**
 - Reading due: Moe-Lobeda, Chap. 10-11, “Closing Words”
 - Reading due: Naomi Klein, “Conclusion”

- Wed 5/11 Class Dinner, Final Exam

Course Outcomes

CLU Student Learning Outcomes Communication (written and oral) skills; information literacy; creative and critical thinking; identity and values; principled leadership; interpersonal and teamwork skills; and cross-cultural competency. CLU Religion Department Learning Outcomes Students will demonstrate an advanced competency to: use the basic vocabulary and methods of the academic study of religion, and articulate clearly and knowledgeably the role of religion in the manifold dimensions of social existence.

Course Evaluations Statement

All course evaluations are conducted online. Your feedback is important to us. You will receive an email message reminding you when the website is open for your feedback. The link is: <http://courseval.callutheran.edu>

Disability Statement

California Lutheran University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations in compliance with ADA of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to students with documented disabilities. If you are a student requesting accommodations for this course, please contact your professor at the beginning of the semester and register with the Disability Support Services Coordinator, Wendy Jimenez, for the facilitation and verification of need. The Disability Support Services Coordinator is located in the Center for Student Success Office at 3259 Pioneer Street, and can be contacted by calling 805.493.3878 or emailing wjimene@callutheran.edu

Statement on Academic Honesty

The educational programs of California Lutheran University are designed and dedicated to achieve academic excellence, honesty and integrity at every level of student life. Part of Cal Lutheran's dedication to academic excellence is our commitment to academic honesty. Students, faculty, staff and administration share the responsibility for maintaining high levels of scholarship on campus. Any behavior or act which might be defined as "deceitful" or "dishonest" will meet with appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including dismissal from the University, suspension, grade F in a course or various forms of academic probation. Policies and procedures regarding academic honesty are contained in the faculty and student handbooks.

Plagiarism, cheating, unethical computer use and facilitation of academic dishonesty are examples of behavior which will result in disciplinary sanctions. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- word for word copying without using quotation marks or presenting the work as yours
- using the ideas or work of others without acknowledgement
- not citing quoted material. Students must cite sources for any information that is not either the result of original research or common knowledge.

Standards of Student Conduct Statements:

- [Student Life Handbook](#)
- [Academic Honesty Statement](#)

University Harassment Policy

Be civil to each other, both on- and offline. For information on the University's student harassment policy and rights, please go to the following link:

[Student Life Handbook](#)

Sexual Misconduct

California Lutheran University does not tolerate any degree of sexual misconduct on or off-campus. We encourage you to report if you know of, or have been the victim of, sexual harassment, misconduct, and/or assault. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify Cal Lutheran's Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. More information about your options for reporting can be found at: <http://www.callutheran.edu/title-ix/>

Pearson Library

Pearson Library provides access to scholarly books, journals, ebooks, and databases of full text articles from scholarly journals. To begin using these materials, visit the library web page <http://www.callutheran.edu/library>

There are many ways to contact Pearson Library for research assistance, no matter where you are!

- Email Yvonne Wilber (Professionals liaison) at ywilber@callutheran.edu
- General Library email: CLUlibrary@callutheran.edu
- Library main phone: 805.493.3250
- Text us your question: 805.493.3867
- Get more help at: <http://www.callutheran.edu/library/help/>

Cal Lutheran Writing Center

The Writing Center provides 1:1 writing consultations, in-person and online, with trained undergraduate and graduate writing consultants. We welcome all writing-related projects at any stage of the writing process across the diverse disciplines of study at Cal Lutheran. The Writing Center also hosts writing workshops, provides in-class visits, facilitates writing groups, and offers a writer's studio option for longer, sustained projects. Services suit writers of all levels, including traditional undergraduates, graduate students from all fields, all English language learners, and accomplished scholars alike. All members of the Cal Lutheran community with an @callutheran.edu email address are welcome to make use of our services. For more information, please visit at www.callutheran.edu/writing_center or call 805.493.3257. Please schedule appointments online through MyCLU Blackboard with the yellow "The Writing Center" icon in "Tools," or stop by The Writing Center itself, located in the Darling Collaboration Suite of Pearson Library.

Veterans Resources

If you are a veteran, military member, or a family member of a veteran or military member, please refer to Cal Lutheran's Veterans Resources webpage for important information: <http://www.callutheran.edu/veterans/>. Also, if you are a veteran receiving benefits and you are struggling in a class, you most likely qualify for free tutoring. Please contact the Veterans Coordinator, Jenn Zimmerman, veterans@callutheran.edu or 805.493.3648, for more information.

Help Desk

Students may contact the Help Desk about telephone, network, wireless network, software questions password problems, hardware problems, and general consultation (i.e. you cannot log into your MyCLU portal, or you are having problems with Blackboard). Please email specific details about your problems to helpdesk@callutheran.edu, click on the following link for more information http://www.callutheran.edu/iss/technology_services/helpdesk.php or call: 805.493.3698

Final Note

This syllabus is subject to change. Every effort will be made to alert students to changes that occur in a timely manner.

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