

04ST6411 – Christianity and Secularism
Fall 2020 : Course Syllabus

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Texts, Required:

Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts* (ISBN: 978-0802409980)
Crouch, Andy, *Culture Making* (ISBN: 9780830833948)
Sherman, Amy, *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good* (ISBN: 9780830838097)
Smith, James K.A., *How (Not) to be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor* (ISBN: 9780802867612)

Exam: The **Final Exam** will require students to answer questions about the lectures, readings, activities, and presentations and readings. This Exam will be given in class on Friday, **November 13, 2020**. (Some portion of the exam may be assigned as a take-home exercise. Portions not completed in class will be due by midnight, Nov. 21, 2020.)

Written Assignment: Field Investigation: Students will complete one Field Report and one Analysis of another student's Field Report. Pairings of Report and Analysis writers will be made at the Sept. 11 class meeting. These reports and analyses will be discussed in class on November 13, 2020.

Report of a Christian effort at Cultural Engagement

- Drawing upon published materials, first-hand accounts, and personal interviews, students will explain the goals, commitments and practices of an organized effort by Christians to live out the cultural mandate as faithful servants of Christ.
- The Report is due by midnight on **Saturday, Oct. 10** and may include questions about what features of the organization's work that may deserve attention in the Analysis. Target length for the Report is 1000-1200 words.

Analysis of a Christian effort at Cultural Engagement

- A reasoned assessment of the organization's efforts in light of biblical and theological considerations developed in the course.
- The Analysis is due by midnight on **Saturday, October 31**. Target length for Analysis is 1000-1200 words.

Participation: Student participation grades will be determined by attendance (5%), participation in class activities (10%), and the presentation of the Field Report & Analysis work (5%). Full credit for each of these elements should be assumed unless specific notice is given otherwise. Students are encouraged notify the instructor if they will be absent from class. One absence for any reason is unremarkable. After one absence specific notice may be necessary. Good faith contributions to class discussions, class activities, and cooperation with partners in the Field Report & Analysis work is unremarkable. Specific notice will

be given if good faith contributions become questionable in the estimation of the instructor.

Grading: Grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

Final Exam.....	40%
Field Report.....	20%
Field Analysis.....	20%
Participation (presence, active involvement).....	20%

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments:

- Sept. 11 The Problems Facing Christians Today**
Reading assignment: Crouch, Part 1, pp. 9-98 (if possible)
Writing assignment: None

- Sept. 25 Our Secular Age (from the Campus...)**
Reading assignment: Smith, all
Writing assignment: (informal oral report on Field Investigation progress)

- Oct. 9 To (be) Change(d by) the World (...to our Ambitions...)**
Reading assignment: Crouch, Parts 2 and 3
Writing assignment (Oct. 10): Field Report

- Oct. 23 The Church as a Hermeneutic of the Gospel (...to our Witness...)**
Reading assignment: Corbett & Fikkert, all
Writing assignment: None

- Oct. 31 Field Analysis Due**

- Nov. 13 Making the City Rejoice (...to our Work)**
Reading assignment: Sherman, all
Writing assignment: Handout to support presentation of Field Investigation findings; **Final Exam** in class.

- Nov. 21 (Take-home portions of Final Exam due, if any.)**

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the

last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)