

Course: HP 338N The Christian and Contemporary Politics
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 2022, Cycle 3 (October 24-December 16, 2022)
Time: TBA
Instructor: Dr. Teddy D. Bitner
Office Extension: 1335, Cell Phone: 816-914-5119
Email: teddy.bitner@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

This course reviews Christian responsibilities and participation in American democracy. Emphasis is placed on historical and contemporary understandings of the relationship between the Church and American political processes. (Prerequisite: HP238).

II. OBJECTIVES

A. Basic understanding of the following elements will be achieved:

1. Understand the basic principles of the United States government. (PLO 1) (Assessment A, B, C)
2. Examine the Biblical worldview with regard to political activity. (PLO1, 4) (Assessment A, B)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Understands the effects of political theories and philosophies. (PLO 1) (Assessment A)
2. Understands the role and impact of Christian participation in civil society and in the political arena. (PLO 1, 4) (Assessment A, B)
3. Understands how to frame arguments and solutions to political problems from the Biblical worldview. (PLO 1, 3, 4) (Assessment A, B)
4. Understands and is able to articulate the relationship between critical government functions and civil protections afforded U.S. citizens, and how to live out the Biblical worldview in the American political environment. (PLO 1, 3, 4) (Assessment A, B, C)
5. Understands application of the Biblical worldview in American contemporary politics. (PLO 1, 3, 4) (Assessment A, B, C)
6. For future educators – recognizes learners' developing sense of fairness and order, and uses this sense as an entry point to examining and analyzing rights and responsibilities, rules, types of authority and governmental structures of their schools and community. (PLO 1, 4) (Assessment A, B, C)

III. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Reading and Questions. You will be expected to complete the assigned reading from the text. As you read the assignments, pay attention to the political activities and process, and how specific aspects of the American political process interact with the historical Church. Be prepared to critique processes and issues and to define your response from the Biblical worldview. Answers to questions are due the within one week of completion of that section during in-class lecture. Questions are loaded into the assignments in Canvas.
- B. Book Report. You are required to read Thomas Sowell's book *A Conflict of Visions* and prepare an eight-page book report due as indicated in Canvas. The book report will include the following elements (at a minimum):
- a. Introduction
 - b. Summary of the book (what did the authors cover in the book?).
 - c. Major themes (what point[s] is the author trying to make?) that you identified during your reading.
 - d. Your assessment of Sowell's themes (do you agree with them, why or why not).
 - e. Conclusion.
- C. Papers. You will be required to prepare two research papers. Appropriate topics include Biblical assessment of key elements of political debate presented by Gruden. Each paper should be no less than eight (8) pages and no more than twelve (12) pages of text (excluding the title page, etc.) and is due as part of the final class assessment. The grade for the paper will be calculated based on the Calvary evaluation sheet. The papers must include three scholarly references. Internet references may also be used (but not popular citations, blogs or Wikipedia). Students who use the Clark Academic Center (CAC) to review a draft of their papers and provide a copies of the draft signed by a CAC tutor will receive a 5% bonus on each paper. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

IV. METHODS

- A. Attendance. I will take attendance once a week on Monday. Attendance is based on academic activity, which includes responding to discussion questions, submitting research papers, book reports or similar assignments, or taking an examination. If you miss more than one week, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If you miss more than two weeks of class, your grade will be lowered by one additional letter grade (a total of two letter grades). If you do not demonstrate activity within the first week of class, you will automatically be withdrawn from the class.

- B. Grading. See the grading scale in the University catalog. The grading scale is given in the University Catalog (letter grades with numerical equivalents). Course work is weighted in the following proportions:

Discussion Questions	15%
Study Questions	40%
Research Papers	30%
Book Report	15%

V. TEXTBOOKS

Wayne Grudem, *Politics According to the Bible: A Comprehensive Resource for Understanding Modern Political Issues in Light of Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. ISBN is 978-0310330295. Retail price is 44.99. Used copies may be available from booksellers for approximately \$12.00.

Thomas Sowell, *A Conflict of Visions: Ideological Origins of Political Struggles* (Revised Edition). New York, NY: Basic Books, 2007. ISBN is 978-0465002054. Retail price is \$18.96. Used copies may be available from booksellers for approximately \$16.75. Kindle is \$16.99.

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Section	Dates
Module One – Chapters 1-3	Dates for each section will be set within the online course system.
Module Two – Chapters 4-5	
Module Three – Chapters 6-7	
Module Four – Chapters 8-9	
Module Five – Chapters 10-11	
Module Six – Chapters 12-13	
Module Seven – Chapters 14-15	
Module Eight – Chapters 16-18	

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

CALVARY UNIVERSITY EVALUATION SHEET

Student Name: _____	Date Due: _____
Faculty Name: _____	Course Number/Name: _____

ASSESSMENT OF LESSON

Categories 1-10: Maximum 100 points (Instructor assigns percentage weight to each category)

	KNOWLEDGE Recalls details of previously learned material, including relevant facts and theories.
	COMPREHENSION Answers are relevant to questions. Grasps the meaning of previously learned material. Correctly explains, interprets, and summarizes as appropriate.
	APPLICATION Applies rules, methods, concepts, principles, and laws as required by questions.
	ANALYSIS Dissects and differentiates constituent parts of a concept, theory, or idea and relate those parts to the whole.
	SYNTHESIS Sees the whole of a concept, theory or idea by means of its constituent parts.
	EVALUATION Assesses and critiques theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, literary works, or other forms of creative expression.
	PROPER CITATION OF AUTHORITIES AND FREQUENCY OF REFERENCES Refers to right sort and numbers of Scriptures and/or outside references with proper form, careful and full presentation and adequate, informative content.
	SPELLING/GRAMMAR/SYNTAX Follows the accepted norms of spelling, grammar, and syntax.
	TURABIAN STYLE The lesson has been submitted neatly and according to relevant school submission guidelines.
	ACADEMIC LEVEL SATISFIED Answers are insightful, original, scholarly, developed with adequate detail, and appropriate to degree level.
	TOTAL POINTS
	<u>FINAL GRADE</u>

Computation of Grade: Maximum Points Possible = 100

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62

_____ Faculty Signature	_____ Date
----------------------------	---------------

COMMENTS ON LESSON:		
<input type="checkbox"/> This lesson shows improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Unique, helpful expressions employed	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong in area of application
<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary development of ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> Nice mix of theological and pastoral ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> References very strong relevant
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesson work shows much promise	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent recall of material	<input type="checkbox"/> Aware of important intricacies of issue
<input type="checkbox"/> Submission requirements not fulfilled	<input type="checkbox"/> Lacking depth of treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of flow in communication
<input type="checkbox"/> References cited incorrectly	<input type="checkbox"/> Grammatical errors excessive	<input type="checkbox"/> Misunderstanding of question asked
<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient reference material	<input type="checkbox"/> Weakness in paragraph format	<input type="checkbox"/> Improper conclusions drawn

REMARKS: