Course Instructor:
   James Emery White, Ph.D.
Class Location:
   Mecklenburg Community Church
Class Meeting Time:
   M-F 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Class Dates:
   January 13-17, 2013

I. Course Description

Develops an understanding of contemporary culture and its relationship to the Christian faith that will give guidance, support, and depth to Christian ministry. Familiarizes the student with sources of cultural understanding including film, literature, music, and television, and examines and evaluates innovative approaches to ministry that seek to respond effectively to contemporary culture. Three hours credit.

II. Course Relationship to Curriculum

TH674 satisfies Christian Thought elective in the M.Div. and MA/MTS-CT programs; general elective for all others.

III. Course Objectives

The student will receive instruction that will create an understanding of contemporary culture and its relationship with the church that will give guidance, support and depth to Christian ministry. Specifically, the student will:

1)  develop skills of careful analysis and reflection in relation to faith, ministry and contemporary culture
2)  gain an understanding of the development and flow of culture to this point in history, specifically Western civilization;
3)  examine the marks of the modern world;
4)  obtain knowledge of the unique nature and challenge of postmodernity;
5)  become familiar with sources of cultural understanding, specifically film;
6)  discover and evaluate innovative approaches to ministry that seek to respond to contemporary culture;
7)  achieve new insight into the challenge of living and thinking Christianly in light of our world.
8)  the ability to express and test these skills in written and oral forms;
IV. Course Textbooks

White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church.*
White, James Emery. *A Mind for God.*
White, James Emery. *The Church in An Age of Crisis.*

V. Course Requirements and Grading

Each grade will be given in numerical form, on a scale of 0-100, with the following letter-grade equivalent: A (100-97); A- (96-95); B+ (94-93); B (92-89); B- (88-87); C+ (86-85); C (84-79); C- (78-77); D+ (76-75); D (74-72); D- (71-70); F (69-0). A+ will not be given. The final grade will be determined on the following basis:

1) In-Class Exam (20% of final grade).

*At the end of the class, students will be tested on the lecture material through an open-note test. The student should assume that test questions will be drawn from class lectures, as well as guest speakers, videos, audio tapes, and other teaching tools that were used throughout the week. The test questions themselves may involve objective questions (true-false; matching; multiple choice) as well as essay questions.

2) 3 Research/Reflection Papers (60% of final grade)

Three research/reflection papers, each worth 20% of final grade for a total of 60% final grade. The first paper will focus on understanding the definition and dynamics of culture in general, the second paper will focus on “reading” culture, and the final paper will reflect on engaging culture through ministry.

A. First Paper: Definition and Dynamics of Culture

The student will prepare an 8-12 page reflection/research paper which defines what is meant by “culture”, and something of its dynamics.

A generous number of the following books should be sampled:

Berger, Peter L. *The Sacred Canopy.*
Colson, Charles. *How Now Should We Live?*
Eliot, T.S. *Christianity and Culture.*
Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures.*
Grenz, Stanley. *A Primer on Postmodernism.*
Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity in Culture.*
Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture.*
Oden, Thomas. *After Modernity...What?*
O'Malley, John W. *Four Cultures of the West.*
Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death.*
Schaeffer, Francis. *Escape from Reason.*
Veith, Gene Edward. *Postmodern Times.*
White, James Emery. *Serious Times.*

**B. Second Paper: “Reading” Culture**

The student will prepare an 8-12 page reflection/research paper on a leading cultural indicator, such as a television series, CD, film or novel. The goal is to engage culture directly and bring a distinctive culture message into a coherent conclusion about worldview and/or cultural current, and then think Christianly about the findings. It will be expected that the student will draw from class lectures and required reading to stimulate and support the reflective work needed for this project.

Each paper shall be typed, double-spaced, using footnotes where needed, stapled in the upper left-hand corner, with the student's name and address included on the front page. Please follow all accepted style and writing guidelines of the seminary.

While the student can submit additional cultural indicators for approval (use form below), the following have been selected and pre-approved for this paper (**Note**: Some of the items selected for pre-approval contain violence, profanity and sexual situations. The student should follow their conscience in regard to whether they choose to expose themselves to such materials. The variety of choices listed below ensures that you are not required to do so to complete this assignment, but the student should consider themselves appropriately cautioned in choosing their areas of exploration):

**CDs (music):**
Babel – Mumford and Sons
Artpop – Lady Gaga
High Hopes – Bruce Springsteen
Prism – Katy Perry
Night Visions – Imagine Dragons
Films:
Man of Steel
Gravity
12 Years a Slave
Elysium
Don Jon

Books:
Inferno – Dan Brown
And the Mountains Echoed – Khaled Hosseini
Lean In – Sheryl Sandberg
The Hunger Games (trilogy) – Suzanne Collins
The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Television:
(*overall analysis, specific season, or indicative episode)

Breaking Bad
The Walking Dead
Mad Men
Modern Family
The Big Bang Theory

C. Third Paper: The Practice of Ministry in Relation to Culture

The student will prepare a 8-12 page reflection/research paper on a model of ministry which self-consciously attempts to minister to, or through, our culture. Whether contemporary or ancient, engaging or combative, the student will be expected to locate a sampling of churches or ministries that share a particular cultural response. Within that sampling, the student will investigate the approach through web-sites, phone interviews, on-site visits, and/or select background reading. The paper should present the approach to ministry, evaluate said approach in light of the student’s own sense of cultural awareness, theological integrity and missional effectiveness, concluding with an assessment of the ministry’s value and worth for the student’s own future in ministry.

Each paper shall be typed, double-spaced, using footnotes where needed, stapled in the upper left-hand corner, with the student’s name and address included on the front page. Please follow all accepted style and writing guidelines of the seminary.

While the student can submit other models of ministry for approval (use form below), the following have been selected (along with their sub-ministries) and pre-approved for this paper (see bibliography for websites):
Lakewood Church, Houston, TX
Mars Hill Church, WA
Mecklenburg Community Church, NC
North Point Community Church, GA
Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NY

3) Reading Assignments (20% of final grade)

There are four books that are required reading: *Rethinking the Church*, *Serious Times*, *A Mind for God*, and *The Church in An Age of Crisis*. The student will prepare a three-to-five page critical book review on each of the four, each worth 5% of total grade for a total of 20% of final grade.

Each report will consist of three parts: a short introduction to the book and author, followed by an analysis of the content of the book (this will be the heart of the paper), and the relevance of the book to your engagement of culture in relation to the practice of ministry.

Each paper shall be typed, double-spaced, using footnotes where needed, stapled in the upper left-hand corner, with the student's name and box number included on the front page. Please follow all accepted style and writing guidelines of the seminary.

The student must select their books for review from the following titles:

4) Class attendance.

As this class meets for only five days, attendance each and every day – for the full day - is critical. Further, as attendance reflects part of the “work” the student is expected to invest, attendance counts toward the grade. You will be considered absent if you miss one-half or more of any class day. Missing one class lowers your overall grade by 10%; a second missed class (one-half or more of any additional class day) lowers your overall grade by 20%. A third absence (one-half or more of any additional class day) will result in automatically failing the course.

VI. Course Administration

A. Attendance Policy

Attendance will be counted toward the final grade (see section above). Any student missing for three (3) or more class sessions (one-half or more of any class day) will not receive a passing grade. If the seminary closes down due to inclement weather, a make-up date will be determined. Each student will be granted a single (one) excused absence without penalty, but only for exceptional circumstances that must be accepted by the professor.
B. Due Dates and Late Penalties

Students are expected to complete all assignments by the date they are due. They should be personally submitted by 5 p.m. on the day they are due, or postmarked by 5 p.m. on that date. They may be electronically submitted, but it is up to the student to do so in a manner and time frame that allows the professor or his assistant to verify successful arrival. A missed deadline, except in cases of extreme emergency, will result in progressively lower grades at the rate of 3 (three) subtracted points from the original grade per day (this includes make-up tests).

The following dates should be noted:

January 13: First Day of Class
January 17: Last Day of Class
           In-Class Exam
February 10: Deadline for Submissions for Alternate Indicators/Ministries
March 10:  Reading Reports Due
March 10:  Reflection/Research Papers Due

C. Assistance

Students may reach the professor through either of his assistants: Ms. Glynn Goble or Ms. Alii Main, by telephone at 704-598-9800 or email at ggoble@mecklenburg.org and acmain@mecklenburg.org. Students are welcome to set up personal appointments in relation to their course of study. Mailing address for all coursework: Dr. James Emery White, 8335 Browne Road, Charlotte, N.C., 28269.

VII. Course Outline

January 13:

Session One/9-12 a.m.: Introduction to Class
What is Culture?
A Brief History of Faith and Culture

Session Two/1-4 p.m.: The Relationship Between Christ and Culture

January 14:

Session One/9-12 a.m.: The Processes of Modernity
The Marks of Modernity

Session Two/1-4 p.m.: Postmodernity
The Rise of the Nones
The New (Social) Media
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 15:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session One/9-12 a.m.:</td>
<td>Cultural Connection and Understanding How to Interpret Culture</td>
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<td>Session Two/1-4 p.m.:</td>
<td>Film Video w/Discussion</td>
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<td>January 16:</td>
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<td>Session One/9-12 a.m.:</td>
<td>The Church and Culture</td>
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<td>Session Two/1-4 p.m.:</td>
<td>Contemporary Approaches to Ministry, Evangelism and Organization</td>
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<td>January 17:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session One/9-12 a.m.:</td>
<td>Serious Times: Culture’s Ongoing Challenge to Christian Life and Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Two/1-4 p.m.:</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Request for Alternate Cultural Indicator(s)

(Do not submit this form unless you desire to explore an indicator not listed on the syllabus)

Student's Name: ______________________________

Proposed Indicator(s): ____________________________________________________________

________________________________________________ ________________

Reasons: _________________________________________________________________

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Approved: _____

Declined: _____

Approved with changes: _____

Professor’s Comments: ________________________________________________________

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Dr. James Emery White

Please include this approval form at the end of your paper.
This form must be submitted to your professor no later than February 10, 2014.
Request for Alternate Ministry

(Do not submit this form unless you desire to explore a ministry not listed on the syllabus)

Student's Name: ______________________________

Proposed Ministry: ____________________________________________________

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Reasons:  _________________________________________ ___________

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Approved:   _____

Declined:   _____

Approved with changes:  _____

Professor’s Comments: _____________________________ _______________________

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Dr. James Emery White

Please include this approval form at the end of your paper.
This form must be submitted to your professor no later than February 10, 2014.
General Guidance for Research and Reflection Papers

Each student is required to prepare three papers for this class, each consisting of 8-12 typewritten pages. A paper of this nature is based on a student’s concentrated investigation of a specific topic relevant to the course. Papers used for other courses will not be acceptable. The purpose of such papers is to allow the student opportunity to become familiar with materials and details relating to specific aspects of faith and culture. The following criteria shall be used in preparation and evaluation of such endeavors.

1. **Primary Source Material:** It is necessary to utilize and cite material of a primary source nature. These are sources that testify directly to the author’s personal knowledge of the matter reported and include journals, websites, letters, sermons, books, interviews and autobiographies written by the individual in question. Careful evaluation will be given to the use of such materials.

2. **Secondary Source Material:** Appropriate reference sources and evaluative materials may be used to supplement primary sources. Primary materials cited from secondary sources are not appropriate if primary materials are available.

3. **Content:** Papers are to be typewritten, 10-12 pages in length, double-spaced. None should exceed 15 pages. Careful attention should be given to documentation and all citations should follow proper footnote form. Footnotes may be placed at the bottom of the appropriate page or in a separate section in the back of the report. Evaluation of content will involve the student’s presentation of the topic and/or problem, facts relating to the topic and critical conclusions.

4. **Conclusion:** This section of the paper is extremely important and involves the student's own evaluation of the major aspects of the topic on the basis of his or her interpretation of appropriate documents and research materials. It also involves the student's own perspective of the topic in question. Evaluation will give particular attention to this aspect of the research paper.

5. **Bibliography:** A bibliography should be attached, indicating the sources the student found helpful - regardless of whether an actual footnote appears in the text. The bibliography must be representative of the proper balance in primary and secondary materials. It should also be annotated. That is, each source must include a few brief comments from the student evaluating the benefit of that particular work. This should not involve merely a one or two word comment but should reflect the student's own consideration concerning the value of the materials to his or her particular study.

6. **Form:** Careful consideration should also be given to the proper form of presentation. If the student is unfamiliar with the proper form for graduate research papers, they should consult the seminary’s accepted style manual.
7. **General Suggestions:**

a. Begin early. The study will be easier and better if you do not have to rush.

b. Consult the class bibliography. Seek help in the library as to possible sources. The professor will make suggestions if desired and place books on reserve if necessary.

c. This work is not meant to be exhaustive, but a general study of a specific area related to the intersection of faith and culture using basic sources.

d. Some research papers may be suitable for publication and should be prepared with that in mind.

e. Make a copy of the term paper before submitting it to the professor.
**Bibliography**

The following titles are illustrative, but not exhaustive, of the many resources available for the study of contemporary culture. They reflect books, periodicals, and websites. While oriented toward Christian moorings, there are secular perspectives represented as well.

**The History of Culture**

Baird, Forrest E. and Walter Kaufmann. *From Plato to Derrida, Fourth Edition*.
Barzun, Jacques. *From Dawn to Decadence, 1500 to the Present: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life*.
Braudel, Fernand. *A History of Civilizations*.
Cochrane, Charles Norris. *Christianity and Classical Culture*.
Colish, Marcia L. *Medieval Foundations of the Western Intellectual Tradition, 400-1400*.
Dawson, Christopher. *Religion and the Rise of Western Culture*.
_____. *Dynamics of World History*.
Lindberg, David C. *The Beginnings of Western Science*.
White, James Emery. *Serious Times*.
Wood, Michael, Bruce Cole and Adelheid Gealt. *Art and the Western World: From Ancient Greece to Post-Modernism*.

**Cultural Criticism/Sociology**

Barzun, Jacques. *The Culture We Deserve*.
Berger, Peter L. *Invitation to Sociology*.
Berger, Peter L. and Samuel P. Huntington, eds. *Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World*.
Berman, Morris. *The Twilight of American Culture*.
Ellul, Jacques. *The Technological Society*.
Friedman, Thomas L. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*.
Fukuyama, Francis. *Our Posthuman Future*.

Gay, Craig M. *The Way of the (Modern) World: Or Why It’s Tempting to Live as if God Did Not Exist*.
Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures*.
Harrison, Lawrence E. and Samuel P. Huntington. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress.*


Lewis, C.S. *The Abolition of Man.*


Marsden, George. *Fundamentalism and American Culture.*

Myers, Ken. *All God’s Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians and Popular Culture.*

Naugle, David K. *Worldview: The History of a Concept.*


Noll, Mark A. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind.*


Putnam, Robert D. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community.*

Rookmaker, H.R. *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture.*


Salzman, Marian and Ira Matathia. *Next: Trends for the Future.*

Satel, Sally. *One Nation Under Therapy.*

Schaeffer, Francis A. *How Should We Then Live?*

Schmidt, Alvin J. *Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization.*

Sorokin, Pitirim. *Social and Cultural Dynamics.*

Stark, Rodney. *The Victory of Reason.*


Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism and Other Writings.*

________. *The Sociology of Religion.*

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**Relating Philosophy/Theology to Culture**

Bock, Darrell L. *Purpose-Directed Theology: Getting Our Priorities Right in Evangelical Controversies.*


________. *Christianity and Western Thought, Vol. 1: From the Ancient World to the Age of Enlightenment.*


Dembski, William A. and Jay Wesley Richards, eds. *Unapologetic Apologetics: Meeting the Challenges of Theological Studies.*

Douthat, Ross. *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics.*


________. *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era.*
Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context.

Johnson, Phillip E. Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law and Education.

Mouw, Richard J. He Shines in All That’s Fair: Culture and Common Grace.

Noll, Mark A. America’s God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln.

Oden, Thomas. After Modernity…What?


Schaefller, Francis A. Escape from Reason.


Sire, James W. The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog.


White, James Emery. A Search for the Spiritual.

What is Truth? The Concept of Truth in Contemporary American Evangelical Theology.


On Faith and Culture

Berger, Peter L. A Far Glory: The Quest for Faith in an Age of Credulity.

The Heretical Imperative: Contemporary Possibilities of Religious Affirmation.

A Rumor of Angels: Modern Society and the Rediscovery of the Supernatural.

Bruce, Steve. Religion in the Modern World: From Cathedrals to Cults.

God is Dead: Secularization in the West.

Carson, D.A. Christ and Culture Revisited.


Clapp, Rodney. A Peculiar People: The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society.

Crouch, Andy. Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling.


De Toqueville, Alexis. Democracy in America.

Dockery, David S. and Gregory Alan Thornbury, eds. Shaping a Christian Worldview.

Eliot, T.S. Christianity and Culture.


Guinness, Os. The American Hour: A Time of Reckoning and the Once and Future Role of Faith.


Holmes, Arthur F. Contours of a World View.

Hunter, James Davison. To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World.

Huntington, Samuel P. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order.

Jenkins, Philip. The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity.

The New Faces of Christianity.
Kraft, Charles H.  Christianity in Culture.
McGrath, Alister E.  The Future of Christianity.
Neuhaus, Richard John.  The Naked Public Square.
Prothero, Stephen.  American Jesus.
Romanowski, William D.  Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture.
Royal, Robert.  The God that Did Not Fail: How Religion Built and Sustains the West.
Swatos, William H., Jr. and Daniel V.A. Olson.  The Secularization Debate.
Wells, David.  God in the Wasteland.
Wells, David.  Losing Our Virtue.
Wells, David.  Above All Earthly Pow'rs.
White, James Emery.  Serious Times.
White, James Emery.  A Mind for God.
White, James Emery.  The Church In An Age of Crisis.
Wuthnow, Robert.  After Heaven: Spirituality in America Since the 1950's.

On Modernity

Berger, Peter.  The Sacred Canopy.
Chadwick, Owen.  The Secularization of the European Mind in the 19th Century.
Guinnes, Os.  The Gravedigger File.
May, Henry.  The Enlightenment in America.
Norman, Edward.  Secularisation.
Schaeffer, Francis A.  Escape from Reason.
Wiker, Benjamin.  Moral Darwinism: How We Became Hedonists.
On Postmodern Thinking


Carson, D.A. *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church.*

Coupland, Douglas. *Life After God.*


Erickson, Millard. *Truth or Consequences: The Promise and Perils of Postmodernism.*


Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer on Postmodernism.*

Harvey, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity.*


Lyon, David. *Postmodernity.*

McLaren, Brian D. *A New Kind of Christian.*

Middleton, J. Richard and Brian J. Walsh. *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used to Be.*

Powell, James. *Postmodernism for Beginners.*

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door, 3rd Edition.*


Veith, Gene Edward. *Postmodern Times.*

Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World.*


On the Rise of the Nones


On Approaches to Ministry

Barna, George. *The User Friendly Church.*

Carroll, Colleen. *The New Faithful: Why Young Adults are Embracing Christian Orthodoxy.*

Dean, Kinda Creasy. *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church.*

Duffet, Robert G. *A Relevant Word.*

Guinness, Os. *Dining with the Devil: The Megachurch Movement Flirts with Modernity.*
Hatch, Nathan O. *The Democratization of American Christianity.*
Hybels, Lynne and Bill Hybels. *Rediscovering Church.*
Keller, Tim. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*
Rabey, Steve. *In Search of Authentic Faith.*
Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism Outside of the Box.*
Smith, Chuck, Jr. *The End of the World...As We Know It.*
Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches.*
Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds.*
________. *Soultsunami: Sink or Swim in the New Millennium Culture.*
Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church.*
Wells, David. *No Place for Truth.*
White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church, (Revised Edition).*
________. *What They Didn’t Teach You In Seminary.*

**On Media/Film**

Auletta, Ken. *Googled: The End of the World as We Know It.*
Bernstein, William J. *Masters of the Word: How Media Shaped History from the Alphabet to the Internet.*
Carnes, Mark C., General Editor. *Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies.*
Carr, Nicholas. *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains.*
Chen, Brian X. *Always On: How the iPhone Unclocked the Anything-Anytime-Anywhere Future.*
Hipps, Shane. *Flickering Pixels: How Technology Shapes Your Faith.*
Johnston, Robert K. *Reel Spirituality: Theology and Film in Dialogue.*
Lyden, John C. *Film as Religion: Myths, Morals, and Rituals.*
McLuhan, Marshall, with Quentin Fiore and Jerome Agel. *The Medium is the Massage: An Inventory of Effects.*


Marks, Craig and Rob Tannenbaum. *I Want My MTV: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution.*


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Responding to Culture’s Challenge to Christian Life/Faith


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Budziszewski, J. *What We Can’t Not Know: A Guide.*


Colson, Charles and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?*

Garber, Steven. *The Fabric of Faithfulness: Weaving Together Belief and Behavior During the University Years.*

Guinness, Os, ed. *Unriddling Our Times: Reflections on the Gathering Cultural Crisis.*


Lewis, C.S. *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses.*

MacDonald, Gordon. *Ordering Your Private World.*

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society.*


Schultze, Quentin J. *Habits of the High-Tech Heart: Living Virtuously in the Information Age.*

Sire, James W. *Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life as a Christian Calling.*

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Stott, John R.W. *Your Mind Matters.*

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Webber, Robert E. *The Younger Evangelicals: Facing the Challenges of the New World.*

White, James Emery. *Serious Times.*

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*The Contemporary Christian: Applying God’s Word to Today’s World.*

*The Da Vinci Question.*
Addendum:
Helpful Websites

Church and Culture
www.churchandculture.org

The Atlantic Monthly
www.theatlantic.com

Books and Culture
www.booksandculture.com

Christianity Today
www.christianitytoday.com

First Things
www.firstthings.com

The Hedgehog Review
www.virginia.edu/iasc/hedgehog.html

Q
www.qideas.org

Religion News Service
www.religionnews.com

Touchstone Magazine
www.touchstonemag.com

World
www.worldmag.com
Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades
Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted
grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

**Returned Work**

Work submitted through Sakai will be returned via Sakai since no hard copies will be turned in. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with any hard copy work submitted if you wish to have it returned.
James Emery White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, North Carolina; President of Serious Times, a ministry which explores the intersection of faith and culture and hosts ChurchandCulture.org; ranked adjunctive professor of theology and culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which he also served as their fourth president; and author of nineteen books which have been translated into ten languages.

Mecklenburg Community Church began with a single family and has grown to over 9,000 active attenders on multiple campuses. “Meck” experiences over seventy-percent of its growth from those who were previously unchurched and during its formative years was often cited as one of the fastest growing church starts in the United States. Dr. White’s commitment to local church ministry also includes service as Distinguished Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Anderson University, and consulting editor to Leadership Journal.

Dr. White holds a B.S. degree in public relations and business, along with the M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary, where he was awarded a Garrett Teaching Fellowship in both New Testament and Theology. He has also done advanced university study at Vanderbilt University in American religious history, and continuing education at Oxford University in England, including participation in Oxford’s Summer Programme in Theology. He has served as a visiting professor at such institutions as New Orleans Seminary, Southern Seminary, Southeastern Seminary and the Moscow Theological Institute. He currently serves on the Board of Reference at Union University and has served on the Board of the Boston Theological Institute, which includes such schools as Boston College, Boston University, and Harvard.

Dr. White’s books include such Gold Medallion nominees as Serious Times and A Search for the Spiritual, Christianity Today book-of-the-year award winner Embracing the Mysterious God, as well as A Mind for God and Rethinking the Church. His most recent publications include What They Didn’t Teach You in Seminary, A Traveler’s Guide to the Kingdom, and The Church in An Age of Crisis. In May of 2014, Baker will release his latest book, The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated. Dr. White is also the founder and President of Serious Times and ChurchandCulture.org, which features his messages and blogs.

Though his family’s roots have been tied to North Carolina for generations, he was born in Chicago, and then lived in California, Utah, and Washington during his childhood. His family returned to North Carolina during his teen years. Dr. White and his wife, Susan, have four children.