Syllabus

1. Course Description – this is an introductory course in the field of Christian Social Ethics with an emphasis on the Biblically and theologically grounded public ministry of the Church. Students will be introduced to the importance of a holistic social ministry and prophetic role of the church in society, accentuating the ethics of responsibility which has its origin and grounding in God’s Word.

2. Course Objectives – This course aims to better equip students to “think theologically, engage globally and live biblically,” especially as it relates to the public ministry of the Church.
   a. Students will develop their understanding of the Biblical and theological basis of the public ministry of the church
   b. Students will develop their Biblical, theological and social ethical reflection on the mission of the Church and public ministry
   c. Students will develop an understanding of types of action which the Christian and the Church can take for faithful public ministry

3. Required Textbooks –

4. Course Requirements –
   a. Attendance Policy & Class Participation (10%) – attendance at all class sessions is critical to the learning process. Students have one session of unexcused absence without penalty. Lateness to any class session counts as a ¼ day absence. Class participation enhances the learning process by making space for diverse voices of knowledge and experiences of the students to become shared wisdom of the community.
   b. Reading Log (15%) – students should read Liberty to the Captives in its entirety before the first class meeting. Students are responsible for reading all the required textbooks indicated in the syllabus. Failure to read the material will affect the student’s comprehension of the lectures and capacity to participate during class sessions. A reading log indicating the percentage of each book that has been read must be submitted with the final paper. Please note that class lectures do not
summarize or review the readings due. Rather, they assume that the reading has been done and build on it.

c. **Critical Reflection Papers** (40% = 4x10% each) – provide a brief two-page analysis of each of the required textbooks. Each paper should include: (1) a one-paragraph synopsis of each book and, (2) at least one key theme/idea in each book that will be helpful to your ministry, explaining why and how you would utilize it. **All Critical Reflection Papers are due six weeks after the last class meeting.**

d. **Final Paper** (35%) – students are to prepare and submit a 10-page academic paper based on class lectures, course required readings, bibliographic resources, and your knowledge/ experience. The paper should conform to standard word processing format (12 point font, 1’ margins in the top and bottom, and 1.25’ in the sides). References should be made using the Turabian format. The paper must address one of the following themes/issues:
   i. Religion and Public Life
   ii. The Biblical Basis for Public Ministry
   iii. Justice and the Public Ministry of the Church
   iv. Politics and the Public Witness of the Church
   v. Community Organizing as Public Ministry
   vi. Public Education and Public Ministry
   vii. The Public Ministry of Jesus
   viii. The Public Ministry of Paul
   ix. Faith-Based Groups and Public Ministry
   x. Immigration and the Public Ministry of the Church
   xi. The Prison System and the Public Ministry of the Church
   xii. The Education System and the Public Ministry of the Church
   xiii. The Living Wage Movement and the Public Ministry of the Church
   xiv. The Christian Community as a Public Church

e. **Grading Scale and Plagiarism** – refer to guidelines as indicated in GCTS Student Handbook

**OVERVIEW OF CLASS SESSIONS**

- **Monday (2/6)** – Syllabus Review, Defining the Public Ministry of the Church & Community Organizing
- **Tuesday (3/6)** – The Esther Model of Community Organizing
- **Wednesday (4/6)** – The Esther Model of Community Organizing
- **Thursday (5/6)** – The Public Ministry of the Church
- **Friday (6/6)** – Contemporary Models of Community Organizing
- **Saturday (6/7)**
  - AM Session – Contemporary Models of Community Organizing
  - PM Session – Challenges in Community Organizing