Introduction:
Dietrich Bonhoeffer became a martyr at the age of 39 at the hands of the Nazi regime. He distinguished himself in the effort to energize the German Church against the oppressive political tactics and propagandists who were seeking to manipulate the Church in a bid to further the National Socialist aims. Although his life was short, he has left a considerable theological legacy. Instead of his writings becoming less important, they are becoming more widely read. Referring to Bonhoeffer, Dorothee Soelle has said he is, “. . . The one German theologian who will lead us into the third millennium.” Whether or not one agrees with this statement it is clear that Bonhoeffer’s life and legacy are worth careful consideration by evangelicals. Not only are his writings varied in genre, style, and content, but his life --- lived as it was in the context of conflict and courage --- causes us to reassess our own circumstances not only to believe but to act as Christians in the world.

Course Objectives:
The course is designed around three basic objectives:
1) The student will gain broad introduction to the historical circumstances and theological responses of the Confessing Church in wartime Germany.
2) The student will gain an introduction to the life, writings and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer through primary readings, lectures and class presentations.
3) The student will begin to integrate and initiate an evangelical assessment of Dietrich Bonhoeffer through directed class discussions and written assignments.

Course Assignments:
The student is required to complete the following assignments:
1) Carefully complete the reading of assigned texts with report.
2) Produce a 5 page response paper to one of the Bonhoeffer texts or one aspect of a Bonhoeffer text, or the Eric Metaxas biography.
3) Write a final paper of 11-14 pages on some aspect of Bonhoeffer’s legacy from an evangelical point of view. The topic must be approved by the professor and an accepted form for research papers must be used.

Reading assignment and notes: Take some notes on the reading. The form I will leave up to you. The point here is to record significant ideas or quotes and to respond briefly. This will help record the fact that you have completed the reading but will also
deepen your interaction with the texts. Please indicate the number of pages you have read.

**Response Paper:** Choose one of the texts and respond. With brief introductory comments introduce the issue at hand. Develop that with agreement and disagreement using good evidence. Conclude with some comments that show its significance and relevance. Clearly, selecting some aspect of Bonhoeffer’s thinking in an area may be preferred to covering an entire book in this response. Five double-spaced pages.

**Final Paper:** Out of our/your study of Bonhoeffer this semester something of interest will have struck you. This is the time to explore that idea, measuring it against other voices. When possible identify the source of the concept in Bonhoeffer’s thought and development. When possible allow your work to lead you to an evangelical assessment of his work. Eleven to Fourteen double-spaced pages.

**Grading Guidelines:**
The student’s grade will be determined by the following percentages:

- Reading Report 25%
- Response Paper 25%
- Final Paper 50%

**Grading Scale:**
The grading scale as outlined in the current catalogue is the standard for the granting of letter grades in this course.

**Required Textbooks:**


**Class Schedule:** *(subject to change)*

| Sept 5 | Introduction and Review of Syllabus  
The Trajectory of the Bonhoeffer Legacy.  
Setting the Stage: Theology at the Turn of the Century. |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12     | 1918 -1929, School, Sanctorum Communio and Barcelona Schlingensiepen, Preface, Chapter 1, 2, 3 (portion) (xv- xix, 1- 60)  
Green, Preface, pgs. 1-91. |
Schlingensiepen, Chapter 3 (60-75)  
Green, pgs. 92-158; 568-563.

26  1932 -1933 Berlin  
Schlingensiepen, Chapters 4, 5 (76-143)  
Green, pgs. 317-388.

Oct 3  1932 - 1933 Berlin, Christology Lectures  
Green, pgs. 261-316.

Reading Week Oct 10-14

17  1932 -1933 Berlin, *Creation and Fall*  
Green, pgs. 159-260.

24  1933 -1935 London; Finkenwalde,  
Schlingensiepen, Chapter 6 (144-209)  
Green, pgs. 389-454

31  1935 -1938 Finkenwalde, *Discipleship*  
Green, pgs. 455-513.

Reading Week Nov 7-11

Nov 14  1935-1938 Finkenwalde, *Life Together*  
Green, pgs. 514-567.

21  1938 – 1943 Ethics and Conspiracy  
Schlingensiepen, Chapters 8-10 (210-318)  
Green, pgs. 594-630  
Christ, Reality, Good.  
Christ, Church, World.

28  1943 - 1945 *Ethics, Letters and Papers from Prison*  
Schlingensiepen, Chapters 11,12 and Epilogue (319-381)  
Green, pgs. 631-698; 749-818.

Dec 5  Gathering Together the Strands: Themes of Bonhoeffer’s Theology.  
Toward an Evangelical Assessment of Bonhoeffer.
Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church:
A Selected Bibliography


Internet Resources:

The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Homepage. www.cyberword.com/bonhoe

This site has links to a number of other sites which will give you resource to research Bonhoeffer on the net.

Bonhoeffer’s Cell – Darren Sumner’s new collection of Bonhoeffer internet resources www.thesumners.com/bonhoeffer

The Bonhoeffer/Tillich Discussion Group www.lightlink.com/xine/lcm/dbpt-l.html