



Description

This course explores the emerging discussion at the intersection of biblical studies, cultural studies, theology, civic engagement and media environments. Students study how interpreting and confessing the Gospel informs the narrative identities and practices of missional congregations as they engage their communities and the world as public companions with God in global civil society. Students use at least two digital tools to create their own interpretation and confession of Christian witness.

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This static syllabus exists primarily as a “shorthand” reference version of the information that lives at our course’s official website: <http://ic2643.ning.com/> Please understand that the website is the definitive source, and any inconsistencies between this version and the website will be decided in favor of the information on the website.

Essential question

What consequences does interpreting and confessing the Trinitarian relationality of God have for how we inhabit public spaces in global civil society through different kinds of media and culture?

Goals

Develop a working vocabulary and set of tools from biblical studies, theology, leadership theory, cultural studies and media studies for Christian public leadership that responds to the needs of contemporary religious communities as they arise within their wider environments.

Develop a familiarity with the ideas and concerns that cluster around the issue of “gospel and cultures,” particularly as related to public theology and congregational leadership in civil society.

Use that familiarity to develop a public voice in interpreting and confessing Christ’s presence, and in supporting congregational mission.

Collaborate with colleagues on learning how to communicate and teach using emerging digital tools (blogs, podcasts, digital storytelling, wikis, virtual communities, and so on).

Required texts

Clay Shirky: *Here Comes Everybody*; Penguin Press, 2008.

Jolyon Mitchell: *Media Violence and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Other essays and videos as assigned (see the website for details)

Themes	Sept. 7	Introductions / orientation
	Sept. 14	Civil society

(specific reading and viewing assignments for each week are on the website)	Sept. 21	Digital cultures
	Sept. 28	Theological orientation
	Oct. 5	Media realities (violent news)
	Oct. 12	Media realities (reframing news)
	Oct. 19	Media realities (photojournalism)
	Oct. 26	Media fantasies (violent films)
	Nov. 2	Media fantasies (video games)
	Nov. 16	Media fantasies (advertising)
	Nov. 30	Social networking and ecclesia
	Dec. 7	Moving into Advent
Dec. 14	Moving into Advent	
Assignments	Every week	do the assigned readings (10% of total grade)
(more details on web)	Every week	individual blog post in response to the “table offering” (max 250 words) (10% of total grade)
	Every week	individual blog post proactively reflecting on your CSOs in light of the weekly lectionary texts and global media culture (max 250 words) (10% of total grade)
	Every week	comment at least once on the blogging of each of your small group members (20% of total grade)
	TBA	once during the term, on a date we will announce at the first session of the class, collaborate with your small group to “set the table” for our weekly reflection (20% of total grade)
	Oct. 19	final project proposal due
	Dec. 7	rough draft of final production
	Dec. 21	completed version of your final project production (30% of total grade)
Special needs	If you have any special learning needs that we should accommodate, please let us know as early in the course as possible.	