

# CURRENT MISSIOLOGICAL ISSUES: HUMAN RIGHTS

EM 336-3, Spring Term 2008

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.  
Schlegel Hall 122

## Instructor:

Frances S. Adeney (Nelson Hall 114; ext. 370; [fadeney@lpts.edu](mailto:fadeney@lpts.edu))

*This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.*

**Course Description:** This course will survey the historical development of human rights and human rights documents, analyze current issues of human rights around the globe, and formulate Christian responses to those issues. Particular attention will be paid to the role of religion in supporting human rights and the interface of Christian mission efforts with human rights implementation.

## Purpose and Objectives:

Students will:

- develop an understanding of the history and content of the United National International Declaration of Human Rights
- explore the connections between human rights and religious values
- analyze current issues of human rights
- learn to approach human rights as an international issue for Christian mission
- master techniques of graduate seminar learning including writing critical book reviews, presenting reviews in class, and leading discussion on the texts

## Topics:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

History and Development

Study of the Declaration

Religious Influences on the Declaration

Covenants and Additions to the Declaration

## Religion and Human Rights:

Christian Theologies of Human Rights

Human Rights and Religious Values

The Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions 1996

## Contemporary Issues in Human Rights

Racial Discrimination in the United States

Freedom of Speech and the Press

Freedom to Practice Religion in the Public Realm

Freedom from Improper Detention and Torture  
Economic Rights and Poverty  
Beginning and End of Life Issues and Human Rights  
Women and Children's Rights Around the World

Christian Mission and Human Rights  
Human Rights and the Call to Justice  
The Impossibility of A-political Christian Mission  
Human Rights and Inter-religious Dialogue  
Addressing Violations of Human Rights

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Attendance accompanied by thorough reading and understanding of texts to be demonstrated through in-class assignments and active engagement with class discussion including questioning, contributing, and respectfully responding to the ideas of others. (20%)
2. Two written Critical Book Reviews, (1000 words each, Typed, double-spaced) of selected texts, to be distributed to students and presented in class.(40%)
3. One written paper (2500 words. Typed, double spaced) outlining a current issue in human rights and showing how the issue relates to the mission of the Church, particularly the work of congregations in the U.S.A.(40%)

Required Texts:

Adeney, Frances S. and Arvind Sharma, eds. *Christianity and Human Rights: Influences and Issues*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2007. ISBN 9780791469521 (pbk.)

Bucar, Elizabeth M. and Barbra Barnett, eds. *Does Human Rights Need God?* Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005. ISBN0802829058 pbk.

Glendon, Mary Ann. *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. NY: Random House 2001. (Paperback edition?)

PC(USA) General Assembly. "Human Rights Update and Study Guide. 2003-04."PDS#OGA-04-046.

Reed, Esther D. *The Ethics of Human Rights: Contested Doctrinal and Moral Issues*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2007. ISBN: 9781932792973.

White, Marjorie L. and Andrew Manis, ed., *Birmingham's Revolutionary: The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights*. Mercer University Press, 2000. ISBN: 0865547092