Course Syllabus
X-817 Senior Seminar
Confronting the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in the United States
Fall 2008

Wed. 6-8:45 pm
Room 158
(4 Additional Classrooms to be used for Group Breakouts)

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Course Description

This senior seminar will focus on past and contemporary responses to the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic within the context of the United States. It will include a review of the latest data on the origins and spread of the pandemic, and provide coverage of the demographic impact on selected communities that have been disproportionately affected.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, this seminar will examine and assess a variety of medical and humanitarian responses and interventions, including government agencies, health organizations, pharmaceutical companies, social services agencies and religious bodies. With regard to Christian responses, the seminar will address the following questions:

- What are the particular biblical, theological, ethical, and moral issues raised by this pandemic?
- How have churches responded to the plight of persons infected and affected by this pandemic in their pastoral care/counseling, education, and social justice ministries?
- How have theological schools in the U.S. incorporated HIV/AIDS education in their curricula and programs?

Furthermore, this seminar will survey selected HIV/AIDS programs and ministries based in Indiana and across the U.S., and will recommend concrete ways for students to connect with these and other programs.

Class Goal: By the end of the seminar, students will collaborate on the design of a HIV/AIDS curriculum and advocacy initiative at CTS. This final collaboration will culminate in the development of a resource team and resource manual to be housed at CTS that will be available for use by churches and other outside agencies. This peer group collaboration will be based on the following five modules:

- Module 1: Human Sexuality and HIV/AIDS
  - share correct info on HIV/AIDS
  - transmission, prevention, and control
Module 2: Biblical Studies and HIV/AIDS
- disease as punishment? (Job)
- prophetic healing and HIV/AIDS
- Jesus’ healing ministry and HIV/AIDS
- the church’s healing ministry and HIV/AIDS

Module 3: Theological-Ethical Perspectives
- theology of creation (Gen 1)
- liberation theologies and HIV/AIDS
- feminist/womanist theologies and HIV/AIDS

Module 4: Program Development and Advocacy
- leadership skills management
- community mobilization skills
- mobilizing resources
- social and political advocacy

Module 5: Counseling/Care and HIV/AIDS
- counseling and pastoral care
- treatment and care for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS
- institutional care
- development and sustainability

Course Policies

1) Your regular attendance and active participation at each session are each session. Please inform me of any anticipated absences. More than two absences will result in a grade reduction or and/or a failing grade.

2) All written work must be submitted by due dates; any work submitted beyond the due date will be subject to a grade reduction. This policy includes collaboration assignments like the World Aids Service and the Curriculum Project, where you and your peer(s) will share the same grade.

3) You are expected to adhere to the highest integrity and honesty in all of your work and interactions. Accordingly, no plagiarism, fabrication or cheating of any kind will be accepted. A high premium will be put on mutual collaboration in this seminar, so you and your peers should strive to work as harmoniously and conscientiously as possible.
Required Texts


Supplementary Sources


Video Resources

*The Age of Aids* (PBS, 2006).

Internet Resource

Balm in Gilead - [www.balminglead.org](http://www.balminglead.org).

Requirements

1) **Opening Meditation:** You will be responsible for designing and leading a brief devotion at the beginning of a designated class period. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at the first class session. (10%)

2) **Revised Credo:** As part of your contextual theological-ethical reflection on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, you will revise and rewrite your Credo with the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the United States as your primary context for reflection, incorporating new data and reflections gleaned from the class, readings and other related experiences. You should make every effort to
condense the final version down to 15 pages. You should also bring a revised draft to class on Oct. 29 for a full discussion with your peer. The revised Credo is due Nov. 5. (40%)

3) **World AIDS Service:** In collaboration with a small cohort of your peers, you will help design a full worship service for World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) focusing on the pandemic in the United States. The service may be designed for either a CTS service or for a specific congregation. In addition to Word and Table (for CTS), the service should include some liturgical expressions, music and images that focus on the U.S. context. This project is due Nov. 19. (20%)

4) **Curriculum Module:** also, in collaboration with a cohort of your peers, you will select one of the five modules listed above and develop a curriculum module for a seminary seminar on HIV/AIDS. Each module should include, at minimum, the following items:

   - An outline of a syllabus for 2 three-hour block classes;
   - Clearly articulated goals and objectives for the module;
   - Reading assignments and class activities;
   - 2 lecture/presentation outlines;
   - A selected bibliography of resources;

This assignment is due Dec. 18 by 4:00 pm. (30%)
Class Calendar

Week 1 (Sept. 3)
I. Opening Meditation
II. Introduction to Seminar/Review of Syllabus
III. Video: *The Age of Aids*

Week 2 (Sept. 10): Module 1: Human Sexuality and HIV/AIDS
I. Opening Meditation
   II. Discussion: The Origins and Spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States
III. Peer Group Formation/Collaboration
Reading: Hunter, *AIDS in America*, Intro. and chs. 1-3;
Robertson IV, *Not in my Family*, Sections I, II, and III

Week 3 (Sept. 17): Saltsburg Distinguished Lecturer Series
*HIV/AIDS, Gender Violence and Masculinities*
Presenter: Isabel Apawo Phiri
6 p.m. in Room 166
Dinner begins at 5 p.m.
Reading: Hunter, chs. 4, 5, and 6;
Robertson IV, Essays 1-4

Week 4 (Sept. 24): Module 1 (continued)
I. Opening Meditation
II. Discussion: HIV/AIDS in the African-American Community
III. Video: *The AIDS Chronicles: Here to Represent*
Reading: Hunter, chs. 7, 8, and 9;
Robertson IV, Essays 5-8

Week 5 (Oct. 1): Module 1 (continued)
I. Opening Meditation
II. Discussion: Responses
III. Video: *The AIDS Chronicles: Here to Represent*, con’t.
III. Peer Collaboration: Credo
Reading: Hunter, ch. 10 and Conclusion;
Robertson IV, Essays 9-12
Week 6 (Oct. 8): Guest Presenter(s)

I. Opening Meditation
II. Guest Presenter (TBA)
III. Peer Collaboration: Credo

Reading: Igo, *Listening with Love*, ch. 2; Robertson IV, Essays 13-16

Saturday (Oct. 11): 2008 Indiana AIDS Walk & Ride
University Park, Vermont & Meridian (Downtown)

Reading Week (Oct. 13-17): No Class

Reading: Robertson IV, Essays 17-22

Week 7 (Oct. 22): Module 2: Biblical Studies and HIV/AIDS

I. Opening Meditation
II. Discussion: Biblical Perspectives
III. Peer Collaboration: Credo
Reading: Robertson IV, Essays 23-26

Week 8 (Oct. 29): Module 2 (continued)

I. Opening Meditation
II. Discussion: Biblical Perspectives, con’t.
III. Video: *Absolutely Positive*
IV. Peer Collaboration: Discussion of Revised Draft

Reading: Overberg, *Ethics and AIDS*, intro, chs. 2, 3, and 4; Robertson IV, Essays 27-30

Week 9 (Nov. 5): Module 3: Theological-Ethical Perspectives

I. Opening Meditation
II. Discussion – How would your tradition and/or you as a pastor/educator respond? How might that response compare with or contrast Overberg’s Roman Catholic approaches?
III. Peer Collaboration: Curriculum Project

Reading: Overberg, chs. 6, 7, and 8; Robertson IV, Essays 31-34

~ Revised Credo Due ~
Week 10 (Nov. 12): Module 4: Program Development and Advocacy

I. Opening Meditation
II. Guest Presenter (TBA)
III. Peer Collaboration: World AIDS Day Service

Reading: Robertson IV, Essays 35-38

Week 11 (Nov. 19): Module 4 (continued)

I. Opening Meditation
II. Offsite Visit (TBA)
III. Presentations of World AIDS Services

Reading: Igo, chs. 3, 4, and 5;
Robertson IV, Essays 39-42

~ World AIDS Services Due ~

Reading Week (Nov. 24-28): No Class

Reading: Igo, chs. 6, 7, and 8;
Robertson IV, Essays 43-46

Monday (Dec. 1): World AIDS Day

Week 12 (Dec. 3): Module 5: Counseling and Care

I. Opening Meditation
II. Discussion
III. Peer Collaboration: Curriculum Project

Reading: Overberg, ch. 5, Appendices I and II;
Robertson IV, Essays 47-50

Week 13 (Dec. 10): Last Day of Class

I. Opening Meditation
II. Communal Feast (TBA)
III. Class Wrap-Up and Evaluation

Reading: Robertson IV, Essays 51-54

Exam Week (Dec. 15-19): No Class

Reading: Robertson IV, Essays 55-58

Thursday (Dec. 18): Curriculum Module Project Due by 4:00 pm