War and Christian Conscience
One-Week Intensive: 11–15 January 2016

HTH391: 1 Unit
Derek Alan Woodard-Lehman
dwoodardlehman@ltsp.edu
Monday-Friday 8:30-12:00 / 1:30-5:00
Location TBA
Office hours by appointment
Hagan 209

Christians are commanded to love both their neighbors and their enemies. But sometimes these loves come into conflict. One neighbor harms or wrongs another. One faction takes up arms against another. An enemy attacks a neighbor. The strong prey on the weak. One nation invades another. In such circumstances, what shape should Christian love take? How does love relate to justice? And what of armed defense in the face of unjust aggression? This course takes up these questions by drawing on classical and critical texts in the moral and political traditions of Christianity, with particular attention to Augustinian and Lutheran Christianity. It places these writings in conversation with writings from secular philosophical and political traditions. And it reflects on these questions in relation to the cluster of conflicts that constitute the present War on Terror.

Old Curriculum: This course fulfills the MDiv Ethics Option

New Curriculum: This course fulfills Theology 3 Option (Engaging the Faith in the World) for MDiv students and the Theology Option for MAR students.

CONNECTION TO LTSP LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

(LTSP-1) Students will demonstrate biblical literacy, with a focus on the normative implications of scripture (1.1)

(LTSP-2) Students will articulate Christian commitments in ways accountable to multiple publics, especially with respect to the publics of their local congregational and civic communities (1.3)

(LTSP-3) Students will articulate personal faith and reflect on it critically, especially with respect to the moral dimensions of Christian discipleship (2.1)

(LTSP-4) Students will demonstrate mature vocational identity, especially with respect to their role as a moral leader in their congregational and civic communities (2.3)

(LTSP-5) Students will demonstrate competence in teaching Christianity, especially with respect to the moral dimensions of Christian discipleship (3.1)
(LTSP-6) Students will demonstrate engagement with public issues and concerns in light of the common good, especially historical and contemporary moral debates (4.1)

(LTSP-7) Students will demonstrate ability to interpret and evaluate particular social contexts theologically, especially with respect to how those contexts bear on moral issues and debates (4.2)

(LTSP-8) Students will demonstrate an ability to integrate global, cross-cultural, ecumenical and interfaith realities in their reflection and judgments on moral issues (4.3)

COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

(C-1) Students will be conversant with the basic components of moral theory and moral theology, including a range of approaches (absolutism, consequentialism, eudaimonism) and concepts (virtue, norms, natural law, divine command, etc.)

(C-2) Students will be proficient in basic description and evaluation of human action (e.g. Œends and means; motivation, reason, intention; final, formal, material, efficient causation)

(C-3) Students will be conversant with theological criteria for description and evaluation of human action (e.g. Œscripture, tradition, reason, experience).

(C-4) Students will be proficient in description and evaluation of human action from the perspective(s) of (Lutheran) Christianity (e.g. Œsin and grace, gospel and law, confession and forgiveness, protology and eschatology).

(C-5) Students will be conversant with a variety of classical and critical positions on a range of historical and contemporary moral issues related to warfighting (e.g. Œad bellum and in bello criteria, double-effect, Christological nonviolence, just peacemaking, torture, drones, etc.)

(C-6) Students will be proficient in articulating their personal and pastoral view(s) on a range of historical and contemporary moral issues (e.g. ŒChristological nonviolence, just peacemaking, torture, drones, etc.)
REQUIRED TEXTS

ISBN 0802807348


Additional readings (required and recommended) will also be available via Moodle by Thanksgiving

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

READING: Students are required to have read the two required texts *prior to the weeklong intensive*. It is *highly recommended* that they read most, if not all, of the Moodle readings as well.

PARTICIPATION & PRESENTATION: (1) Presence and *prepared* participation at all daily sessions is required. (2) Students will be responsible for making a presentation that provides a close reading of one or more assigned readings, and generates a substantive Group Discussion. **Participation and Presentation are 50% of final grade (25% each).**

PAPER: Students will prepare a final paper that takes up some topic related to the issues, arguments, and viewpoints discussed throughout the course. The paper will take the form of an argument in defense of a thesis. **Paper is 50% of final grade.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

11 January    Christian Ethics and the Ethics of War
12 January    The Biblical and Theological Background
13 January    Just War
14 January    Pacifism
15 January    The Justice of the Present War