

CT3082W Economics, Justice and Theology

Offered: 2018: Semester 2

This unit aims to equip students with the resources to understand a variety of economic models and to formulate a theological critique of these. The unit will embody a dialogue between the approaches of an economist and a theologian. The relationship between society and the economy will be considered and theological resources such as economic language in the Scriptures, economic models in Scripture and early Christianity, and contemporary Christian social teaching will be explored. In particular, theological critique will be directed to current neo-liberal economic models, bearing in mind issues of distributive justice and economic policy.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Analyse underlying assumptions of selected economic models;
2. Describe economic dimensions of biblical language and ethics;
3. Discuss the role of Scripture in formulating critiques of economic policy and in exploring alternative economic models;
4. Articulate a theological critique of selected contemporary Christian teaching on economic justice.

Prerequisites: 30 points in CT

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment: One seminar paper (1,500 words) (30%)
One essay (3,500 words) (70%)

Faculty: Jonathon Cornford, Deborah Storie

Recommended Reading:

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Atherton, John, *Transfiguring Capitalism: An Enquiry into Religion and Global Change*. London: SCM Press, 2008.

*Bell, Daniel, *The Economy of Desire: Christianity and Capitalism in a Post-Modern World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

Davis, Ellen, *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Horsley, Richard A., *Covenant Economics: A Biblical Vision of Justice for All*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Pabst, Adrian (ed.), *The Crisis of Global Capitalism: Pope Benedict XVI's Social Encyclical and the Future of Political Economy*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2011.

Schumacher, E. F., *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*. Point Roberts, WA: Hartley & Marks, 1999.

Stackhouse, Max L., (ed.), *God and Globalization: Volume 4: Globalization and Grace*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2007.

Stiglitz, Joseph, *Making Globalization Work: The Next Steps to Global Justice*. Camberwell: Penguin, 2006.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Economy of Grace*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2005.

*Tawney, R. H., *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. London: Verso, 1926 (2015).