

# The Sin Seminar – WYT3510/6510HF

## Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m.

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Room 104

### STUDENTS WILL:

1. Understand how the tradition has spoken of sin
2. Be able to identify modern assumptions and problems with the doctrine
3. Offer a constitutional idea about its retrieval

### MODES OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, guest lecture, seminar, bible study, debate, discussion of movie

### SCHEDULE:

*During the first few weeks of the term, read Nature and Destiny of Man, Vol. I, Reinhold Niebuhr*

#### WEEK 1

Topic: Introductory Lecture

#### WEEK 2

Topic: Original Sin, in the tradition and in contemporary Catholic theology

Guest Speaker: Jean Pierre Fortin

Readings: Handout, also Gary Anderson, “Necesarium Adae Peccatum” (packet)

Bible Study: Genesis 3

#### WEEK 3

Topic: \*Sin and Theodicy – why did the possibility of sin enter the world? How do we avoid attributing it to God on the one hand, and dualism on the other? If heaven has no sin, why can’t creation? What about radical evil?

Readings: Selection from Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem (packet)

Google: Selections from Berkouwer, Sin and Williams, The Ideas of the Fall and Original Sin (packet)  
Bible Study: "Shake Hands with the Devil"  
Daniel 7

#### WEEK 4

Topic: \*Sin and the Unconscious – how do the unconscious, addiction, etc. tell us?  
Readings: Read Freud's Civilization and its Discontents  
Selection from Cornelius Plantinga's Not the Way it's Supposed to Be (packet)  
Bible Study: Romans 7

#### WEEK 5

Topic: \*Sin and modern science – brain science, evolution, the category of sociopaths, robots – what does the brave new world tell us?  
Readings: Selection from Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep  
Selection from Dostoyevsky, Notes From Underground (library online)  
Google: "Y chromosome and criminality"  
Bible Study: Psalm 8, 51, 137

#### WEEK 6

Topic: \*Sin and freedom, our's and God's. What were the classic debates? How does the question of freedom work itself in our contemporary cultural and intellectual world?  
Readings: Selection from Aquinas, Summa, I.19,49  
Selection from Charles Taylor, Malaise of Modernity  
Bible Study: Romans 8

#### WEEK 7

Topic: \*Sin and death. What does the latter teach us about sin? What does our attitude toward death tell us about sin?  
Readings: Selection from Wolfhart Pannenberg's Systematic Theology, II  
Bible Study: Romans 9

#### WEEK 8

Topic: Sin and Hell. Does a doctrine of sin need damnation? What do we make of contemporary quasi-universalism in a doctrine of sin?  
Debate:  
Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 15

### WEEK 9

Topic:	*Sin and the powers. What is our theology of structural sin? How does the present interest in apocalyptic affect culture that had a little sense of sin at all?
Readings:	Selection from Walter Wink's <u>Engaging the Powers</u>
Bible Study:	Colossians 1

### WEEK 10

Topic:	*Sin and preaching. Bonhoeffer worried about evoking guilt to provoke a conversion. But, did he foresee a culture that had little sense of sin at all?
Readings:	Selection from Bonhoeffer's <u>Letters and Papers from Prison</u> Selection from William Stafford's <u>Disordered Loves: Healing the Seven Deadly Sins</u>
Bible Study:	2 Corinthians 4

### WEEK 11

Topic:	Movie day – "Sunset Limited" and discussion
Bible Study:	Matthew 4

### WEEK 12

Topic:	Closing discussion and lecture
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### **EVALUATION:**

25%	Participation, including leading a Bible Study
25%	Presentation leading a class discussion
50%	15 page paper

#### Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar's office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**