

**Abstract**  
**HC 3317 – Theology and Culture**

Daniel Carro  
Professor of Divinity  
The John Leland Center for Theological Studies  
Spring 2012 – Tuesday, 6:15 - 7:55 PM

**Description**

Since the publication of the now famous *Christ and Culture* by H. Richard Niebuhr in 1951, the study of the relation between theology and culture has become a must in theological circles. Now, more than sixty years later, the study of culture has evolved into various dynamic models, which stress the indeterminate and fragmented character of the cultural process. The relation of theology and culture has to be revisited periodically to insure the proper correspondence and co-responsibility.

This course is designed to analyze the evolution in the interpretation of “culture” since Niebuhr, a hermeneutical shift that also affects the interpretation of the theological task. This course also introduces students to an understanding of theology as a culturally bounded activity, and to the breakthrough of new patterns of Christian identity and practice in the XXI Century.

**Required Readings**

Carter, Craig A. *Rethinking Christ and Culture: A Post-Christendom Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006. ISBN 1-58743-159-9.

Long, D. Stephen. *Theology and Culture: A Guide to the Discussion*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2008. ISBN 1-55635-052-X.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper & Row, 50th Anniversary Edition, 2001. ISBN 0-06-130003-9.

Stassen, Glenn; Yeager, D. M. and Yoder, John Howard. *Authentic Transformation: A New Vision of Christ and Culture*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996. ISBN 0-687-02273-8.

Tanner, Kathryn. *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997. ISBN 0-8006-3097-1.

**Evaluation**

Besides readings, students will write a mid-term paper and an essay on a socio-political area of the world and a theologian particular to that area. Also, students will verbally present the findings of their essay in class.