

**ICS Calendar Title:** Art, Religion, Education, and Justice: The Christian Philosophy of Nicholas Wolterstorff

**ICS Course Code:** ICS 2400AC W11

**Instructor:** ICS Faculty

**Term and Year:** Wednesdays, 9:30-12:30pm, Winter 2011

**Last Updated:** November 15, 2010

**Course Description:**

This course examines four central themes in the Christian philosophy of Nicholas Wolterstorff. It examines the interconnections to be found among these themes and their respective contributions to the project of Christian Philosophy as conceived and practiced by one of the most wide-ranging and successful English speaking philosophers to come out of the world of Reformed Christianity.

**Reading Schedule:**

1: Jan. 12	Introduction: Lambert Zuidervaart <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of <i>Art in Action</i>, by Lambert Zuidervaart</li><li>• Review of <i>Art in Action</i>, by Calvin Seerveld</li><li>• Review of Seerveld's <i>Rainbows for the Fallen World</i>, by Nicholas Wolterstorff</li></ul>
2: Jan. 19	<i>Art in Action</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part I—Artistically Man Acts</li><li>• Part II—Our Institution of High Art</li></ul>
3: Jan. 26	<i>Art in Action</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part III, ch. 1—The Artist as Responsible Servant</li><li>• Part III, ch. 2—The Given with which the Artist Works</li></ul>
4: Feb. 2	<i>Art in Action</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part III, ch. 3—The Action of World Projection</li><li>• Part IV—Our Stance Toward the Institution of High Art</li></ul>
5: Feb. 9	<i>Reason within the Bounds of Religion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preface; chs. 1-11</li></ul>
6: Feb. 16	<i>Reason within the Bounds of Religion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chs. 12-22</li></ul>
Feb. 21-22	Reading Week—No Class
7: Mar. 2	Selected Essays in the Philosophy of Religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is it possible and desirable for theologians to recover from Kant?</li><li>• Suffering Love</li><li>• The Assurance of Faith</li></ul>
8: Mar. 9	<i>Educating for Shalom: The Integration of Faith and Learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Point of Connection between Faith and Learning</li><li>• Can Scholarship and Christian Conviction Mix?</li><li>• Particularist Perspectives: Bias or Access?</li></ul>
9: Mar. 16	<i>Educating for Shalom: Teaching for Justice</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The World for which we Educate</li> <li>• The Project of a Christian University in a Postmodern Culture</li> <li>• Teaching for Justice: On Shaping How Students are Disposed to Act</li> </ul>
10: Mar. 23	<i>Justice: Rights and Wrongs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preface</li> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Chs. 1-2</li> </ul>
11: Mar. 30	<i>Justice: Rights and Wrongs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chs. 3-5</li> </ul>
12: Apr. 8	<i>Justice: Rights and Wrongs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chs. 14-16</li> </ul>
13: Apr. 13	Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be determined</li> </ul>

### Course requirements:

*Total reading:* 1250 pages, including research for paper, of which approximately 40-60 pages per week is required to prepare for class.

*In-seminar leadership:* In order to structure class discussion in a way that is both meaningful to students as well as guided by a close reading of the assigned texts, each week different students will take turns introducing the readings for that class. The goal for these presentations, however, is manifestly *not* that of complete exegetical coverage of the assigned reading. Instead, the presentation will *begin* with the most pressing question that the assigned reading raises for the student. This question might be pressing for intellectual, but also existential and religious reasons. After stating the question, the student will pinpoint the *particular* location(s) in the text where that question emerged for him or her, and then go on to offer a *close reading* of that limited portion of text. This close reading should take the form of a line-by-line analysis of the selected text, complete with suggested interpretation *and* explanation of why that portion of text raises the question it does. This interpretation may in turn radiate out from that selection and touch on other parts of the assigned text, but again, complete coverage is not required or requested.

*Course paper:* One course paper whose theme arises from in-class reading and discussion. Length: Master's: 3000–5000 words; Doctoral: 5000–7000 words. *A substantive outline*, including tentative thesis statement (50-100 words), outline, and proposed extra reading is *due on Friday, Mar. 4, 2011*. The *paper* is *due on Fri., May 27, 2011*.

## Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:

ICS Students:

Class Participation: 10%; Seminar Leadership: 30%; Paper: 60%

TST Students:

Class participation: 20%; Seminar Leadership: 30%; Paper: 50%.

## Required Texts

Seerveld, Calvin G. 1980. Review of Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Art in Action: Toward a Christian Aesthetic*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1980). In *Vanguard* 10/6: 5, 18-19. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PER]

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. 1980. Review of Calvin G. Seerveld, *Rainbows for the Fallen World* (Downsview, ON: Tuppence Press, 1980). In *Vanguard* 10/6: 4, 18. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PER]

\_\_\_\_\_. 1980. *Art in Action: Toward a Christian Aesthetic*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 W64]

\_\_\_\_\_. 1984. *Reason within the Bounds of Religion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BD215 .W56]

\_\_\_\_\_. 2004. *Educating for Shalom: Essays on Christian Higher Education*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV1464 .W66 2004]

\_\_\_\_\_. 2008. *Justice: Rights and Wrongs*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .J8 W65 2008]

\_\_\_\_\_. 2010. Is it Possible and Desirable for Theologians to Recover from Kant? In *Inquiring About God: Selected Essays, Volume I*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 35-55. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT40 .W65 2010 v.1]

\_\_\_\_\_. 2010. Suffering Love. In *Inquiring About God: Selected Essays, Volume I*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 182-222. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT40 .W65 2010 v.1]

\_\_\_\_\_. 2010. The Assurance of Faith. In *Practices of Belief: Selected Essays, Volume 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 289-312. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT40 .W65 2010 v.2]

Zuidervaart, Lambert. 1983. Review of Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Art in Action: Toward a Christian Aesthetic*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1980). In *Philosophia Reformata* 48/1: 87-90. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PER]

## Some Recommended Readings

- Audi, Robert, and Nicholas Wolterstorff. 1997. *Religion in the Public Square: The Place of Religious Conviction in Political Debate*. Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BL65 .P7 A83 1997]
- Moltmann, Jürgen, Nicholas Wolterstorff, and Ellent Charry. 1998. *A Passion for God's Reign: Theology, Christian Learning, and the Christian Self*. Ed. Miroslav Wolf. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT78 .M76 1998]
- Sloane, Andrew. 2003. *On Being A Christian in the Academy: Nicholas Wolterstorff and the Practice of Christian Scholarship*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster. [Robarts Library: BR115 .L32 S56 2003]
- Wolterstorff, Nicholas, and Alvin Plantinga, eds. 1983. *Faith and Rationality: Reason and Belief in God*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press. [Robarts Library: BT50 .F34 1983]
- Wolterstorff Nicholas. 1983. *Until Justice and Peace Embrace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT738 .W56]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1995. *Divine Discourse: Philosophical Reflections on the Claim that God Speaks*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT180 .W67 W65]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1996. *John Locke and the Ethics of Belief*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B1298 .R4 W65]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2001. *Thomas Reid and the Story of Epistemology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Robarts Library: B1537 .W65 2001]