

REL 4441 CURRENT RELIGIOUS ISSUES
Dr, Mountcastle

TEXT: Jersild and Johnson: *Moral Issues and Christian Response*

Sessions

Topic

1. Introduction: Over view of suggested topics for student reports. Each student will select 2 topics (a 1st and 2nd choice), from the list of suggestions or one not listed with the permission of the instructor. After assignments have been agreed upon, each student will research and write a critical report that will be presented both orally in class and in written form to each student and to the instructor. Evaluation will be in terms of significance of the topic, evidence of serious research, coherence of presentation, and clarity of language. Both the oral presentation and the paper as well as student participation in class discussion will be evaluated and constitute the basis for the semester grade.
2. Religious and Ethical Categories

Remainder of Sessions will be presentations of student reports.

Suggested Topics for Student Reports:

Bio-Ethical Issues

Human Sexuality and Spirituality
New Patterns for Marriage
Pro-Choice/Pro-Life
Euthanasia
Population Control
Cloning and Genetic Engineering

Conflict and Justice

War and Religious Ethics
Capital Punishment

Alternate Approaches to Religion

Hallucinogenic Drugs and Religious Mysticism
The Charismatic Revival
Satanism
Magic and Witchcraft

Influence of Eastern Religions

The Moonies
The Hari Krishna Movement
Buddhism in America
Philosophy of Comparative Religion

Spiritual Healing and the Afterlife

Psychic Healing
Life After Death
Reincarnation

The Arts and Religious Themes

Eastern Themes in Painting and Music
Religious Themes in Sci/Fantasy Literature

Techno-ethical Questions

Genetic Engineering
Cloning
Ecological Problems
UFO's and Extraterrestrials
Uses of Space

Liberation Movements

Liberation Theology
Black Liberation
Women's Liberation
Gay Liberation