Global HIV and AIDS: History, Theology and Ethics
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Pacific School of Religion
The Graduate Theological Union
Monday-Friday, 1:00 to 5 p.m., July 18-29

Overview and Course Description

As a topic in contemporary social ethics, the global HIV and AIDS pandemic presents unprecedented challenges to the church and society in the 21st century.

This course addresses the history, theology and ethics of the complex personal, medical, social, cultural, and religious dimensions of HIV and AIDS. Particular attention to the pandemic will be given to the United States, Africa, and Asia. Because HIV and AIDS has disproportionately affected communities deemed expendable by the dominant culture, it reveals where there is racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia in every society. Evaluating secular sources for HIV culture as well as religious sources for theological insights will be a particular emphasis.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

Students completing this course successfully will:

* Appreciate the theological and cultural history of HIV and AIDS particularly as it unfolded in the United States and around the world

* Identify theological Therese in secular sources of HIV culture as well as think critically about the religious discourse relating to this disease;

* Articulate theological and ethical responses to HIV and AIDS appropriate to varying social locations and contexts;

* Understand the vital role that persons living without HIV and AIDS have had and are having in the struggle to combat the pandemic;

* Identify critical ethical and theological issues that contribute to the extension of the epidemic and could assist in the struggle against global HIV and AIDS;

* Learn to speak and write theologically about HIV and AIDS, bridging the discourse between public health and religion, in ways that will be useful to the spiritual needs of individuals and communities affected by HIV and AIDS
* Make connections between the theological issues involved in HIV and AIDS. And other forms of social marginalization, suffering and disease.

**Required Readings**

Articles to be assigned

Book of your own choosing related to the topic.


Flunder, Yvette A. *Where the Edge Gathers; Building A Community of Radical Inclusion* (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2005).


**Assignments:**

1. Students are expected to attend and participate in class. Attendance will be kept.
2. No examinations in this seminar.
3. An opening or closing devotional shared with the class.
4. Readings as assigned.
5. A paper or project related to the topic. The instructors offer flexibility to match student interest and needs. Prior approval, however, should be received from one of the professors prior to July 25.
7. A two page reflection paper at the end of the first week synthesizing the readings, conversations, and experiences.
8. Each student is expected to share a 5 to 10 minute class synopsis about the AIDS pandemic in a Sermon in class on one of the last days.
9. A report of HIV and AIDS in a particular country (of their own choosing).
10. Sermon in class on one of the last days.

**Students With Disabilities**

The instructors will follow PSR's policies and engage in collaborate efforts with students with disabilities to reasonably accommodate each student’s needs.
Tentative Schedule

July 18   Introduction and overview
Historical Perspectives & Epidemiology: Who is Infected & Affected

July 19   Theology and HIV: Where is God in the AIDS Pandemic?
Explore topics like theodicy, suffering, compassion, judgment, death

July 20   HIV: Biblical Perspectives and Stigma/Discrimination

July 21   HIV: Gender Inequality, Children, and Youth

July 22   HIV Prevention and Testing
Explore condoms, circumcision, abstinence, PReP, fidelity, harm reduction, drug use

July 24   Optional trip to attend City of Refuge, UCC, in Oakland, and/or Glide UMC in San Francisco, or MCC San Francisco (not required)

July 25   HIV Care and Treatment; Counseling and Dealing with Grief

July 26   HIV: Art. Culture, and Literature

July 27   HIV and Black Lives Matter

July 28   Protest and Resistance: Causing Change

July 29   Hope for the Future