

**PUBLIC SYLLABUS**  
**Regent University**  
**Spring 2008**

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Prof. of International Policy  
Joint Appointment in GOV, LAW

1. COURSE NAME: **LAW811/GOV651 Biblical Law (3 credit hours)**

2. COURSE TIME: 10:15-11:50a, Tue and Thu, Tue08Jan-Thu10Apr, 2008.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION: **LAW811 (cross-listed in GOV as GOV651) Biblical Law (3 credit hours)**. An exegetical course in the laws of the Bible, using the Decalogue as its own principle of organization. The meaning of the laws in context and their appropriate applications will be developed, with emphasis on the nature of their applicability to policy issues such as pluralism, justice, lawful oaths, blue laws, church-state jurisdiction and gender roles, capital punishment and war, divorce, theft-restitution and usury, perjury, and fraud.

4. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (all three of these have already been ordered at the Regent Bookstore):

**Required:** BUDZISZEWSKI, J. *What We Can't Not Know: A Guide*. Dallas, TX: Spence Publishing Company, 2004. Paperback, 272 pp. ISBN 1890626546.

**Required:** CLARK, H. B. *Biblical Law, Being a Text of the Statutes, Ordinances, and Judgments Established in the Holy Bible, with Many Allusions to Secular Laws: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern -- Documented to the Scriptures, Judicial Decisions and Legal Literature*. 2nd ed., soft cover, 1944; CPA reprint, n.d. No ISBN. Soft cover, xxii + 338 pp. If the student orders it, the address is CPA Book Publisher, P.O. Box 596, Boring, OR 97009, or [cpabooks@hotmail.com](mailto:cpabooks@hotmail.com).

**Required:** STRICKLAND, Wayne G., general editor. *Five Views on Law and Gospel*. Stanley N. Gundry, series editor of the Counterpoints Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996. Paperback, 416 pp. ISBN 0310212715.

5. ASSIGNMENTS: Each of the three assignments below require "a reflection paper," which by definition for this syllabus is limited to selective summaries with reflections on each (thus neither a research paper nor a full summary), with page numbers in parentheses for each point (no footnotes), and with a final paragraph of evaluation on the work being treated as a whole. All three are to be double-spaced, with only Times New Roman, 12-point font.

5.1 Read *What We Can't Not Know* by Budziszewski, and write an 8-page reflection paper.

5.2 Read *Biblical Law* by Clark, and write a 6-page reflection paper.

5.3 Read *Five Views on Law and Gospel* by Strickland (ed.), and write a 10-page reflection paper.

6. ASSESSMENTS: This year the sequence of the readings, and the reflection papers on them, are in a general-to-specific order: a *philosophical and theological* work on natural law, which is presupposed by Biblical law; followed by a *topical and historical* work on the Biblical law; followed, finally, by a *hermeneutical* work on some contemporary Christian models for interpreting Biblical law; the three-book total being ca. 1000 pages of actual reading. Of the total grade, the Budziszewski paper is worth 30%, the Clark paper 20%, and the Strickland paper 50%, for a total grade of 100% on papers. There are no quizzes or examinations this year, true for the fifth time in the history of this course, thus allowing more time for reading and writing, and reducing the lecture and exam pressures at the end of the course. Lapses in attendance or participation will be reflected only in possible demerits against the total grade. The instructor's lectures will be from his handouts on the *Biblical* material, and on the class discussion of each assigned paper on the day that each is due. END