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

2. COURSE TIME: 10:15-11:50am, Tue and Thu, Tue05Jan-Thu08Apr, 2010.

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):


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), tracking straight through the book, 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, 11-point font.

5.1 Read *Treatise on Law* by Aquinas, trans. by Freddoso, and write an 8-page reflection paper.

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

5.3 Read *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible* by Clark, and write a 5-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: (1) a philosophical analysis of eternal, natural, human, and divine (OT, NT) law, esp. the natural law presupposed by the Bible; (2) followed by a hermeneutical work on five contemporary Christian models for interpreting Biblical law; and, finally, (3) an exegetical treatment of the complex Biblical doctrine of marriage and divorce. This three-book total contains just under 800 pages of actual reading. Of the total grade, the Aquinas paper is worth 30%, the Strickland paper 50%, and the Adams paper 20%, for a total grade of 100% on papers. There are no quizzes or examinations in 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, as will errors in grammatical form. The instructor's lectures cover natural law, his handouts on the Biblical material, and the class discussion of each of the assigned papers on the day that each is due. END