



Intersection Content Example

Area: Business

Content: Business and Public Policy

General: Intersection content examples provide samples of course content from a program or discipline with suggestions about how one or more insights from the Lutheran (and, more broadly, the entire Christian faith) perspective can inform that content.

Good instructional methods are always a part of effective teaching. But the examples do not provide a formula or recipe, and their use is not about some particular teaching method, a set of criteria, or a list of rubrics for “the right Lutheran or Christian” instructional solution. (Such an approach would put us, as Lutherans say, “under the Law rather than grace.”) The examples do indicate opportunities where the instructor and student can explore and apply specific themes related to the Gospel and a biblical world view as these may relate to course content.

To use the example, simply scan or read it for content and the featured intersections. Doing so will help acquaint you with direct and indirect ways by which the instructor can carry over some of these ideas into her or his own course work. For further background on the Lutheran tradition, see the materials at <http://twokingdoms.cune.edu/> under the menu tabs for the Grad Programs, the Lutheran Tradition, and the About page. For additional content ideas see the tabs for Content Areas and for Resources.

Business and Obamacare in the Two Kingdoms

The Affordable Care Act is generating public dispute and court cases about issues of health care, business, individual rights, and the social commonwealth from which all citizens benefit. The issues revolve around such matters as religious conscience, obeying the governing authorities (Rom. 13:1ff), the First Amendment, obeying God before we obey men (Acts 5:17-32), business law and corporate rights, and legal precedents set by court decisions that will affect people of all faiths and of no particular faith. Biblical themes intersect these concerns though such Reformation insights as the two kingdoms doctrine, our material stewardship of life including the body, Christian liberty, and our two kinds of righteousness.

In addition to the usual news and information sources (for several links, see [the Resources page](#) on this site), coverage on Obamacare is regularly updated at two conservative Evangelical web sites, Christianity Today and World Magazine. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod maintains a church-and-state web site with attention to the Affordable Care Act. These links will take you to those sites:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/h/health-care-reform/>

http://www.worldmag.com/topic/healthcare_mandate/

<http://www.intersectionofchurchandstate.com/default.asp>

The controversy about the Affordable Care Act can serve as a practical course content example for considering business, non-profits, and other organizations and the Christian’s role in these left-hand kingdom institutions. At this writing, the national retail chain, Hobby

Lobby, is in litigation with the federal government over whether a business that operates with Christian principles can be required to provide health care plans which include abortion services. Also in question at this writing is whether church social service agencies can be required by law to provide services or referrals that are contrary to that organization's religious convictions and practices.

For Instruction:

A search of the sites linked above will produce news articles and issues for course content to examine these and similar cases.

A list of several Biblical texts on the two kingdoms can be found on [the Home page](#) of this site.

Articles on the two kingdoms doctrine and other Reformation theme can be found on [the About page](#) and [The Lutheran Tradition page](#) on this site.

Review those Biblical texts and some of the articles. For creating instructional content, consider such topics and questions as these:

1. Christians as citizens and taxpayers participate directly or indirectly in subsidizing a number of practices they may question or challenge, perhaps including state-run lotteries and state use of the death penalty. How might the Affordable Care Act compare or not compare for Christians regarding such public policies and practices? In what ways do Christians agree and disagree among themselves?
2. For a business whose owners or principals are concerned about spiritual questions at stake in a public policy (perhaps such as the Affordable Care Act in this case), what strategies and alternatives are available about whether and how to participate?
3. What precedents regarding religious convictions, ethical concerns, or spiritual sensitivities are being established or may potentially be established as this business and public policy issue proceeds?
4. Review the Lutheran Reformation's two kingdoms doctrine. Develop a two kingdoms rationale and application of that doctrine for a business (or other organization) response to the Affordable Care Act.
5. Should a business or other employer with Christian beliefs become involved in a class action suit that seeks amelioration or remediation regarding laws perceived to violate those beliefs?
6. _____