

Spring, 2024

Chapter Summary Papers

Purpose: A key component of your intellectual work in [REDACTED] is to dialogically analyze how Christian and Non-Christian thinkers interact and respond to issues related to race, climate, politics, and economics. In particular, it asks that you recognize how each of our primary thinkers engages a spectrum of dialogue partners, inc. the Christian tradition, philosophy, political theory, economic theory, etc. as they construct their arguments. This paper asks you to work on this task via a close reading of one chapter from two of the five primary texts. The paper then asks you to clarify both the chapter's argument and how the thinker's theological claims develop in relationship to the ideas laden within the dialogue. The primary purpose of the paper isn't about your critique or evaluation of the text, but rather showing you understand the argument.

For this paper, our primary thinkers are **Clark, Bonhoeffer, Reiger, Niebuhr, and Kierkegaard**. You are responsible for two papers: one paper on a chapter from either Clark or Bonhoeffer and one paper on a chapter from Reiger, Niebuhr or Kierkegaard.

Task: Write a 1000-word summary of One Chapter or Daily Reading which:

- 1) Summarizes the **main points of the chapter**
- 2) Clarifies the **key terms and ideas** within the construction of the argument
- 3) Articulates the views and ideas of the **dialogical partner(s)** that shapes the thinker's argument. Think about a "They say..., Clark says..." model for the paper as you craft it.
- 4) Explains the **relevance** of the text for our course (i.e. religion, politics, climate, moral order, etc.)
- 5) Avoids any **editorializing or personal opinions** about the argument (except in the conclusion)

Assessment:

- 1) A clear **summary statement/thesis**. Example: "Critically engaging Black Theology, Clark's final chapter critiques Black Theology's idea of liberation for being too anthropocentric and capitalist; instead, he argues that liberation must be rooted in a Marxist perspective that affirms both economic and ecological freedom."
- 2) A short (3 sentences) **introduction** that focuses the reader (me) on your summary via the thesis
- 3) A **main body** with concise, focused paragraphs (not one long paragraph). A paragraph should only have 3-5 sentences rooted around one idea
- 4) The use of at least **5 quotations** to develop your summary, parenthetically cited. Example: "blah, blah, blah, blah"(Clark, 54).
- 5) Proper **clarification/definition** of key terms from the argument
- 6) A **conclusion**. The conclusion can be a place where you can raise your critical concerns and/or clarification questions you have in relation to the text
- 7) **Elegance** of writing, **correct** grammar and punctuation, and well-thought-out **ordering** of ideas

Due Date: One week after we discussed the chapter in class by 5pm on Google Classroom

