



Syllabus for
GTHE 661—Introduction to Christian Ethics

3.0 cr/6p

Instructor: Pavel Hoffman, M.A., M.Div

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the moral life and the biblical, theological, and methodological ethic of the Christian Way. Traces theories of philosophical ethics and leads to the distinctive Christian ethic. Examines Christian principles and procedures for decision-making, as they relate to practical life problems.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Learn to become conversant in the field of Christian ethics.
- B. Study a living and working definition of Christian ethics.
- C. Understand how to consistently practice Christian ethics within personal life and ministry.
- D. Learn to communicate Christian ethics to the Christian community.
- E. Determine the Christian ethic by contrasting it with general naturalistic ethics.
- F. Gain an understanding of the Christian ethic within the biblical and theological dynamic from which Christian principles for daily living and decision-making are worked out.
- G. Understand how to make personal decisions and seek social involvement consistent with Christian ethics.
- H. Communicate the Scriptures effectively, accurately, and authoritatively in a post-modern world.
- I. Apply biblical interpretation to contemporary issues.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Discuss the importance of establishing an informed, living, workable, ethical way of life that is based upon Christian commitment and is applicable personally and in the community.
- B. Discuss critically the theological positions that undergird crisis experiences that require ethical solutions.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbooks:

Geisler, Norman. *Christian Ethics*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox press, 2009.

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Press, 2009.

Recommended Textbooks:

Fletcher, Joseph. *Situation Ethics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Hollinger, Dennis. *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Pojman, Louis P. *The Moral Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Satris, Stephen. *Taking Sides*. Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2002.

Stassen, Glen Harold and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

Waldo, Beach. *Christian Ethics in the Protestant Tradition*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1989.

Wells, David F. *Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

V. COURSE PROCEDURES

A. Course Prerequisites: None

B. Evaluation Procedures:

1. Grading Scale

A = 90-100	D = 60-69
B = 80-89	F = below 60
C = 70-79	

2. Assignments

Quizzes	21%
Assignments	18%
Research Paper	20%
Mid-Term Exam	16%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL	100%