

ST 5200: CHRISTIAN ETHICS
TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL
Spring 2012
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COURSE DESCRIPTION (from TEDS catalog): Biblically-informed perspectives on contemporary issues facing the church and the minister: divorce, abortion, euthanasia, genetic control, sex, war, racism, ecology, personal lifestyle, and the church's responsibilities.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: As a result of this course, students should be able to:

1. Become familiar with the academic discipline of Christian ethics in its central concepts, methodological approaches, biblical and theological norms, and the variety of critical issues that it seeks to address;
2. Develop a holistic framework for understanding the scope and content of Christian ethical decision-making;
3. Understand some of the reasons for the cultural and ecclesiastical controversies surrounding ethical issues and learn to relate responsibly to both arenas of controversy;
4. Encourage personal moral growth, analytical thinking, and obedient discipleship as one loves the Lord with all one's heart, soul, mind, and strength; and
5. Gain skills and insights necessary as a Christian to serve in constructive, corrective, and redemptive ways in relation to the issues taken up in this course.

COURSE EVALUATION:

1. Quizzes will count for 30% of the course grade.
2. A book review (with presentation) will count for 20% of the course grade.
3. The final exam (with a report of the reading) will count for 50% of the course grade.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

John Feinberg and Paul Feinberg. *Ethics for a Brave New World*. Second Edition. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2010.

Glenn H. Stassen and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

M. Daniel Carroll R. *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

James K. Hoffmeier. *The Immigration Crisis: Immigrants, Aliens, and the Bible*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2009.

RECOMMENDED COURSE TEXTS:

Richard Hays. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.

Samuel Waje Kunhiyop. *African Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Hippo/Zondervan, 2008.

William C. Mattison III. *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2008.

Christopher J.H. Wright. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

(TENTATIVE) COURSE SCHEDULE:

10-11 February: Introduction, Ethical Theory; Scripture and Theology in Christian Ethics; Beginning of Life Issues

Reading: (A) Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World*, pp. 21-108 (B) Stassen and Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics*, pp. 19-145; 215-236.

20-21 April: End-of-Life Issues

Reading: (A) Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World*, pp. 157-266.
(B) Stassen and Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics*, pp. 237-251.

4-5 May: Sexual Ethics; Genetics and Morality

Reading: (A) Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World*, pp. 267-633.

(B) Stassen and Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics*, pp. 252-324.

18-19 May: The Pursuit of Peace and Justice

Reading: (A) Stassen and Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics*, pp. 149-214; 325-491.

(B) Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World*, pp. 635-736; (C) Carroll, *Christians at the Border*

(D) Hoffmeier, *The Immigration Crisis*.

Due: Book Reviews

31 May: Final Exam Due