



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

Fall 2012

CHRISTIAN ETHICS
THEO 0535

Tuesdays, 1 -3:50

INSTRUCTOR: Professor James A. Beverley, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: I am available on campus by appointment, usually various times from Monday through Thursday. You can usually see me on Tuesday before and after class, or on the break.

The most effective way to make an appointment is by email. If you need to reach me about something by phone, use my cell phone number. When sending me an email, please put Tyndale Ethics in subject line.

To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to central issues in Christian ethics, with attention to the way in which moral reflection interacts with philosophy and culture. Exposes biblical-theological foundations for ethics, the role of Jesus' example in ethical formulation and deals with major contemporary topics such as gender, sexuality, marriage, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, war, bioethics, wealth and poverty.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- better understand the options in Christian ethics and the context of contemporary Christian morality
- articulate their own ethical views and be more effective in living a moral vision of the Christian life
- employ a proper use of Scripture in ethical decision making
- better understand the dynamics of ethics in relation to media, political pressures, social realities, etc.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts

Glen H. Stassen & David Gushee, *Kingdom Ethics* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003). ISBN 0-8308-2668-8

Additional material will be made available for the class from Professor Beverley's files on ethics and from visiting lecturers.

B. Assignments and Grading

1. Attendance, Interview, Minor Project and Participation (20%)

Attendance is expected at all classes. The student's final grade will be adjusted in relation to attendance. Students who miss more than three classes without exceptional reason will fail the course.

All students will have a 30 minute personal interview with Professor Beverley. The interviews will take place throughout the term. More information on scheduling will be provided in the first and second class.

For the interview each student is to prepare a 1000 word document that answers:

What are the major events in your life that have shaped your ethical views and your spiritual identity?

What topics in ethics do you find most difficult to address in terms of right and wrong?

How has your life story and church life shaped your ethical views and practices?

Please provide a timeline of the major moments of your life story.

Professor Beverley expects that by signing up for the course students will fully participate in classes through listening, note taking and other proper forms of engagement. As well, participation and politeness means that students will refrain from texting during class and using computers in ways that distract self and others from learning. Students can use the internet during class to look up relevant items directly related to class learning. Otherwise, random surfing of the internet and the playing of games on the computer should be avoided.

2. One minor report (1000 words), Due October 12 (10%)

The student is to write a report of 1000 words that provides a biblical analysis of any ethical topic. The report should show both knowledge of the topic and the ability to process the biblical text in doing moral reflection. The student is to speak with Professor Beverley about the topic before continuing on assignment. More information will be provided on the first day of class.

3. Review of Text (2500 words), Due November 16 (20%)

Write an evaluation and response to the textbook as a major source of learning. Journal report can be reflective, narrative or chart response. It is expected that you read the book in its entirety. 2500 words or equivalent depth in other format is expected. This is a major text, interaction is expected to show careful analysis and response.

4. Major Research Project (2500 words), Due December 7 (30%)

You can write on any topic central to ethics. See Professor Beverley for guidance.

5. Take Home Exam, Due December 14 (20%)

Will be based on class lectures, teachings, all study and learning throughout the course.

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the *Academic Calendar* for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at: <http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>.

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.46 to 10.51](#) and [14.253 to 14.254](#).

Usually assignments are to be submitted directly by email. Submit them to Rebekka Paul, my administrative assistant rebekka.paul@yahoo.ca . Please contact Professor Beverley for exceptions.

- Special Note About Assignments

Please do not miss class in order to finish an assignment. Every student can ask for an extension without penalty due to extreme circumstances. Please inform Professor Beverley of these special circumstances in writing.

- Official Seminary Policy On End Of Term Deadlines

Faculty may NOT grant an extension on assignments beyond the last day of class for the semester. Students who have not submitted an assignment by this date will receive a grade of F for the assignment, unless official permission has been obtained from the Registrar due to extreme and extenuating circumstances (see Academic Calendar).

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Attendance, Interview, Participation	20%
Minor Biblical Report	10%
Interaction with Text	20%

Research Paper	30%
Take Home Exam	20%
Total Grade	100%

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

We will examine most of the topics listed below, through class time, text review, other reading and guests. In almost every class we will spend time on the text, deal with related topics to text content and explore other specific topics.

Options in Ethical Theory, Formation of a Biblical/Christian ethic Guiding Principles in Ethical Choices/Living Sexuality and Gender, Marriage and Divorce, Homosexuality, Abortion, Euthanasia, Bioethics, War, State Capital Punishment, Wealth and Poverty, Political Ethics, Censorship Issues, Environmental Ethics

A detailed schedule will be given at the first class, with notes about guests, topics, text readings, etc.

Date	Notes about class	Assignments
September 11	Introduction to Course	
September 18		
September 25		
October 2		
October 9		Minor Report Due October 12
October 16		
October 23	NO CLASS	READING WEEK
October 30		
November 6		Note to Professor about Research Topic
November 13		Review of Text Due November 16
November 20		
November 27		
December 4	Last Regular Class	Research Paper Due December 7
December 11	No Class / Exam Week	Take Home Exam Due December 14

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

See selected online resources in Tyndale's Christian Ethics Reading Room:
<http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsm modular/reading-rooms/ethics>