

Th 6305 Christian Ethics
Fall 2009

I. Course: Th 6305

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Office hours by appointment

II. Course Description

This course will examine present discussions regarding moral agency, biblical resources for Christian ethics, and alternative views of the function of scripture in Christian ethics. It will also examine select issues for contemporary ethics (e.g., the use of the Scripture in ethics, instrumental violence, the Christian and politics, human sexuality, gambling, etc.)

Course Goals

The goals of this course are to provide necessary foundational knowledge regarding the field of Christian ethics 1) to students preparing to pursue full-time ministerial roles; and 2) to the student interested in exploring the formative relationship of Christianity to Western philosophy, literature, art, and political science; and 3) to prepare students for graduate-level study of Christianity.

Course objectives

The student 1) will be able to identify different understandings of human moral agency; 2) will recognize different Christian approaches to moral theology and Christian ethics among different Christian groups; 3) will be able to draw upon biblical and theological resources in reflecting upon contemporary moral issues.

IV. Course Requirements

Regular attendance and participation in class discussions.
Two short essays (5 pages) on two of the following topics:
the use of the Bible in ethics
the relationship of worship and ethics
the Christian and politics
the the place of self-love in the teaching of Jesus
Note: first paper is due last meeting in October
second paper is due last meeting before Thanksgiving
Three quizzes to be scheduled in consultation with the class.

IV. Library Resources on reserve:

Bakers Dictionary of Christian Ethics BJ 1199 B34
New Dictionary of Christian Ethics & Pastoral Theology BJ 1199 N 495
The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics BJ 1199 W 47