

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Office of Continuing Education
A Graduate Credit Option in Partnership with
The Assemblies of God Chaplaincy Department
August 8-11, 2004

P THE 640 APPLICATION OF BIBLICAL ETHICS IN THE CONTEXT OF
CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES
(2 or 3 Credits)

Dr. Christina Powell

Summer 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of ethical issues facing contemporary Christians from the perspective of biblical principles. The implications of biblical ethics for moral decisions both in the individual, societal and chaplaincy ministry contexts will be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will have familiarity with ethical concerns related to chaplaincy ministry.

1. Familiarity with basic ethical systems, particularly those utilized within the Christian tradition.
2. Knowledge of the ethical issues facing ministry in chaplaincy settings.
3. Ability to apply the biblical ethical perspective to contemporary ethical problems.

TEXTBOOKS

Geisler, Norman L. Christian Ethics: Options and Issues. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989.

Hill, Alexander. Just Business: Christian Ethics for the Market Place. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Pojman, Louis P. A Reader in Moral Problems, Second Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company. 2000.

Rae, Scott B. Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

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Trull, Joe E. and Carter, James E. Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

Wilkins, Steve. Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics: An Introduction to Theories of Right & Wrong. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read a minimum of 175 pages from at least four of the six textbooks listed above (700 pages total). Substitutes may be approved from the texts found in the Bibliography if the substitute book is directly related to the student's focus of ministry. Prepare a reading report citing which books were read and how many pages were read from each text. **Due date: October 1, 2004.**
2. Write a five to eight page reflection paper on the chaplains conference. Include the key elements from the seminar and reflect on whether you are/aren't Integrating some or all of the ethical principles in your life and in your current ministry. **Due date: September 15, 2004.**
3. Pick a research topic related to the information provided in the chaplains seminar and write a 12 to 15-page research paper. The paper should demonstrate an adequate understanding of the current literature on the subject. A bibliography of sources consulted including pages read from the textbook section above related to your topic should equal at least 600 pages total. It should also focus on an aspect of your current ministry setting in which you need improvement. A simple plan for implementation should precede the conclusion of the paper. Use the Turabian 6th edition handbook for the style and format of the paper. **Due date: November 1, 2004.**

Due Date: All course work must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2004.

A \$15 change of grade fee will be required of all participants who fail to turn in their work on the due date, even if an extension on submission is granted.

Three Credit Option

In addition to the work assigned above for the two-credit option, the participant must complete the following:

1. An additional 200 pages of reading (800 total) for the post-session reading/research assignment.

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2. Write an additional ten pages (22-25 total) for the post-session research project focused upon the integration of the research materials into a real life or case study ministry setting.

3. Write a 5-8 page critical analysis of one of the books from the post-session reading assignment. In order to make this project a good graduate level exercise, the book should be at least 200 pages in length. Provide a succinct summary of the book. Identify and discuss the author's premise or thesis and the way that it is developed and supported throughout the book. Evaluate the success or failure of the author to support this premise. Reflect upon the value of this particular text for the field of study with which it is associated.

Submit all course work to:

**AGTS Continuing Education
ATTN: Dr. Christina Powell
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802**

COURSE EVALUATION

Each assignment will be weighted as follows in figuring the final course grade:

Reading Report	30%
Seminar reflection paper	25%
Research paper	45%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Atherton, John, ed. Christian Social Ethics: A Reader. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1994.
- Barnette, Henlee H. Introducing Christian Ethics. Nashville: Broadman, 1961.
- Barth, Karl. Ethics. Edited by Dietrick Braun. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. New York: Seabury, 1981.
- Birch, Bruce C. and Larry L. Rasmussen, ed. Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life. Revised and expanded edition. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Press, 1989.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Ethics. Edited by Eberhard Bethge. Translated by Nevile Horton Smith. New York: Macmillan, 1955.
- Brunner, Emil. The Divine Imperative. Translated by Olive Wyon. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1947.

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- Davis, John Jefferson. Evangelical Ethics. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1985.
- Fletcher, Joseph. Situation Ethics. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1966.
- Furnish, Victor Paul. Theology and Ethics in Paul. Nashville: Abingdon, 1978.
- Gardner, E. Clinton. Biblical Faith and Social Ethics. New York: Harper and Row, 1960.
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- Grenz, Stanley J. The Moral Quest: Foundations of Christian Ethics. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Henry, Carl F. H., ed. Baker's Dictionary of Christian Ethics. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1973.
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- Hill, Alexander. Just Business: Christian Ethics for the Market Place. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Hughes, Philip E. Christian Ethics in Secular Society. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1983.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward Old Testament Ethics. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Kilner, John F., Nigel M. de S. Cameron and David L. Schiedermayer, eds. Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Long, Edward Leroy, Jr. A Survey of Christian Ethics. New York: Oxford, 1967.
- _____. A Survey of Recent Christian Ethics. New York: Oxford, 1982.
- Longenecker, Richard N. New Testament Social Ethics for Today. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Lovelace, Richard F. Homosexuality and the Church. Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1978.
- Lutzer, Erwin. The Necessity of Ethical Absolutes. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.
- Mott, Stephen Charles. Biblical Ethics and Social Change. New York: Oxford, 1982.
- Nash, Ronald H. Social Justice and the Christian Church. Milford, MI: Mott Media, 1983.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. Christ and Culture. New York: Harper and Row, 1951.
- _____. The Responsible Self. New York: Harper and Row, 1963.
- Ogletree, Thomas W. The Use of the Bible in Christian Ethics. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.
- Osborn, Eric. Ethical Patterns in Early Christian Thought. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1976.
- Payner, Jr., Franklin E. Biblical/Medical Ethics: The Christian and the Practice of Medicine. Milford, MI: Mott Media, 1985.
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- Robinson, N. H. G. The Groundwork of Christian Ethics. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
- Schrage, Wolfgang. The Ethics of the New Testament. Translated by David E. Green. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
- Sellers, James. Theological Ethics. New York: Macmillan, 1966.
- Thielicke, Helmut. Theological Ethics. Edited by William H. Lazareth. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.
- Trull, Joe E. and Carter, James E. Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.
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- Wogaman, J. Philip. Christian Moral Judgment. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. An Eye for An Eye: The Place of Old Testament Ethics Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Alvin Worthley with bibliography input from James H. Railey, June 2004.