

Syllabus for
THE 401 – Ethics
3.0 Credit Hours
Summer 2009

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Christian perspective on the science of human duty and the major problems encountered. Surveys both ancient and modern solutions.

Prerequisites: none

II. COURSE GOALS

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

- A. Obtain an overview of major historical figures and problems in moral philosophy.
- B. More properly determine the relationship of faith and right action.
- C. Discover the strengths and weaknesses of various ethical systems, theories, and principles.
- D. Acquire critical thinking skills useful for future academic, vocational, and other personal pursuits.
- E. Develop a more informed and carefully formulated stance on pressing ethical problems and issues.
- F. More fully appreciate the meaning of human responsibility to self, God, and neighbor in light of Christ's Passion, the Resurrection, and the awaited Eschaton.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful completion of this course will enable the student to do the following:

- A. Articulate an understanding of the basics of moral philosophy.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of significant philosophers and their contributions to moral thought.
- C. Exercise skills necessary to apply abstract theories to concrete ethical problems.
- D. Engage in critical reflection about his/her own moral beliefs and values.
- E. Offer well-formulated answers to pressing ethical problems and issues.
- F. Practice his/her faith more Christianly and more humanely.

IV. TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Cavanaugh, William. *Theopolitical Imagination*. Continuum International Publishing, 2002.

Stassen, Glen and David Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics*. InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Various handouts and online materials (detailed in class).
2. Other
None

B. Recommended Materials

1. Meilaender, Gilbert and William Werpehowski. *The Oxford Handbook of Theological Ethics*. Oxford University Press, 2007.
2. Other
None

V. REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance/Participation

The student should attend class, arrive promptly, listen attentively, and engage meaningfully and respectfully in conversation with instructor and fellow students. Outside of class, the student should read carefully and thoughtfully, and complete writing assignments with integrity and excellence, submitting them on time for grading.

B. Book Critique

The student will write a brief (2-3 page; 500-750 words) critique of Cavanaugh's *Theopolitical Imagination* or Stassen's *Kingdom Ethics*. Further details will be given in class.

C. Academic Journal

The student will keep an academic journal in which he/she will make entries relevant to materials covered in class and/or course readings. Entries will be assigned by the instructor and will include various exercises, such as responses to readings (both from textbooks and other materials given in class), application of ethical theories in hypothetical situations, analysis and evaluation of ethical positions and theories, and critical reflection on one's own ethical position and the tacit theological and philosophical assumptions underlying it.

There will be 15 entries (one for each day) required during the semester. Though there is not an assigned length for each entry, the entries should reflect serious engagement with ethical issues involved. These entries draw on the student's personal opinion, and do not require use of outside sources, though they should demonstrate conversance with class lectures and discussions.

D. Research Essay

The student will write a 4-6 page (1000-1500 words) research essay. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, in an acceptable format (e.g., MLA, APA, Turabian). Further instructions will be given during class.

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
4. Final Exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade.
See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
 - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
2. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
 - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the

appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
 - d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.

4. Attendance

- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
- b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Procedures

1. Requirements:

Attendance/Participation	100 pts
Academic Journal	150 pts

Book Critique	100 pts
<u>Essay</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
Total:	450 pts

2. Grading Scale

450 - 405	A
404 - 360	B
359 - 314	C
313 - 268	D
267 - 0	F

3. Whole Person Assessment requirements: none.

VII. Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to Christian Ethics

Week 2 Theology & Ethics

Week 3 Application and Appropriation

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
THE 401- Ethics
Summer 2009

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical Thinking	X			
2B	Information Literacy		X		
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle			X	
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	