Syllabus for
GTHE 661—Introduction to Christian Ethics Online
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2017

I.   COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the moral life and the biblical, theological, and methodological ethic of the
Christian Way. Traces theories of philosophical ethics and leads to the distinctive Christian
ethic. Examines Christian principles and procedures for decision-making, as they relate to
practical life problems.

Emphasizes application of Christian principles and procedures for decision-making within the
complex framework of a globalized society.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:
A.   Learn to become conversant in the field of ethics.

B.   Explore a living and working definition of Christian ethics.

C.   Learn how to consistently practice Christian ethics within personal life and
        ministry.

D.   Learn to communicate Christian ethics to the global Christian community.

E.   Learn to determine the Christian ethic by contrasting it with general naturalistic
        ethics.

F.   Explore the Christian ethic within the biblical and theological dynamic from which
        Christian principles for daily living and decision-making are worked out.

G.   Encourage social involvement consistent with Christian ethics.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE
     As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the
     following:
A.   Discuss the importance of establishing an informed, living, workable, and ethical
        way of life that is based upon Christian commitment and is applicable both
        personally and communally.

B.   Discuss critically the theological positions that provide the foundation for
        making complex ethical decisions.

C.   Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the church within a
        globalized society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.

IV.   TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A.   Required Materials
1.   Textbooks
Fletcher, Joseph. *Situation Ethics: The New Morality* (Library of Theological
Ethics) (Paperback). Philadelphia: Westminster/ John Knox Press,
1966. ISBN: 9780664257613

Hollinger, Dennis P. *Choosing the Good Christian Ethics in a Complex World*
Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. ISBN: 9780801025631

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices.* 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, ME: Zondervan, 2009.
ISBN: 9780310291091

2.   Other
Instructor notes (no charge).

B.   Optional Materials
1.   Textbooks
None
2.   Other
Audios of Powerpoint lectures may also be made available, but are not
required.

V.   POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
A.   University Policies and Procedures
1.   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, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and
other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of
ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own
academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students
on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's
ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other
forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

a.   Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone
else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
b.   Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while
claiming to have done so;
c.   Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
d.   Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or
projects that were not done;
e.   Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.
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. Penalties for any of the above
infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment
or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by
department and University guidelines.

2. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA 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.

3. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures
   1. Completion of Assignments
   Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
   2. **Incompletes**
   On rare occasions, the grade of "I" may be given for work that is incomplete at the end of the course semester due to a catastrophic event.
   a. The student must establish with the instructor and the director of the Modular/Distance Education Program that work is incomplete for good cause and submit a Petition for Incomplete Grade, with documentation.
   b. **The Petition must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or summer course session, not exam week.**
   c. **The submission of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an Incomplete.**
   d. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
   e. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition, make up any incomplete work, and submit a completed Request for Grade Change form (which has been signed by the course professor) to the academic office.
   f. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent semester, the incomplete will automatically convert to an "F," unless an extension is formally granted.
   2. Examinations
   a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).

      b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)

B.   Course Policies and Procedures

    1.   Evaluation Procedures

      a. Grading:

Assigned reading questions from Instructor, Fletcher, or Rae:	20%
Hollinger Reading Questions	10%
Threaded discussion of one assigned ethical dilemma each week:	10%
One 12- to 15-page ethical analysis paper:	25%
MT exam:	15%
Final Exam:	20%

      b. Grading Scale:
      90-100%—A
      80-89%—B
      70-79%—C
      60-69%—D
      59% and below—F

    2.   Whole Person Assessment Requirements

      a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRFT 059 ePortfolio—Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.

      b. Whole Person Assessment (ePortfolio) requirements for this course:

        i. All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the ethical position paper for GTHE 661 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.

        ii. Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change.

    3.   Submitting Course Assignments

      a. Answer weekly reading questions from Rae, Fletcher, or the Instructor, by uploading them to the drop box designated for that week. Be sure to include the questions with the answers. Copies of the Rae questions have been posted on your D2L site in both pdf and Word formats so that they may be cut and pasted rather than requiring you to retype them. Other questions will be supplied as needed.

      b. Upload your answers to the Hollinger reading questions to the "Quizzes" section on the dates specified. Just the answers will suffice for this section. There will be about two questions per week beginning with the third week of classes.

      c. Be sure to participate in the threaded discussion dealing with each week's ethical dilemma. This will be located under "Discussions". A link has been inserted in the weekly assignment sections that should take you directly to the discussion.

      d. Submitting the Ethical Analysis Paper

<ol type="i" start="1">
Upload one copy of the paper the professor listed in your ePortfolio repository.
Upload a second copy of the paper to the respective dropbox by the due date specified.

<ol type="a" start="5">
Mid-Term and Final Exams are to be taken by their respective due dates.
Also please note the video voice over, "Submitting Course Assignments" in the "Course Information" module of your D2L site.

<ol start="4">
Other Policies and Procedures
<ol type="a">
Papers are to be submitted as one file only, no division into separate parts or additional files.
All course materials are to be submitted electronically via D2L; hard copy printed materials will not be accepted.
Email submissions will not be accepted.
Missed or interrupted exams will be penalized by the same criteria as late assignments. No reviews will be given for late exams.
Assignments are due on the dates specified by the course calendar on the D2L site.
Exams may not be taken early.
Responses to the Hollinger weekly reading questions, located under "Quizzes", cannot be made up.
Participation in the threaded discussion ethical dilemmas should be intentional and reflective of critical thinking on the part of the students. Responses characterized by general expressions of agreement, "cheering one-another along"; needless personal avowals or affirmations will not be acceptable. Threaded discussion materials may not be submitted after their weekly due dates.
Each student should respond to each threaded discussion ethical dilemma with a conclusion and, in addition, critique at least two others from the class. Critiques may be positive or negative; the main issue will be whether the commentary reflects critical thinking.
All work must be compatible with the Microsoft Word format. Microsoft Works is not acceptable.

Course professor: Dr. James Breckenridge, jbreckenridge@oru.edu

VI.   COURSE CALENDAR (Subject to adjustment)

Week	Assignment	Hollinger	Events
1	Social Contract		
2	Fletcher		
3	Rae, Ch. 1	Ch. 1	
4	Rae, Ch. 2	Ch. 2	
5	Rae, Ch. 3	Ch. 3	Paper Topics Approved
6	Rae, Ch. 4	Ch. 4	
7	Rae, Ch. 5	Ch. 5	
8	Rae, Ch. 6	Ch. 6	Midterm Exam
9	Rae, Ch. 7	Ch. 7	
	Spring Break		
10	Rae, Ch. 8	Ch. 8	
11	Rae, Ch. 9	Ch. 9	Papers Due
12	Rae, Ch. 10	Ch. 10	
13	Rae, Ch. 11	Ch. 11	
14	Rae, Ch. 12	Ch. 12	
			Final Exam Due

Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry

Master of Divinity
GTHE 661—Introduction to Christian Ethics - ONLINE   Dr. James Breckinridge, Instructor

Spring 2017

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree 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.

	Degree Program Outcomes	**Significant Contribution**	**Moderate Contribution**	**Minimal Contribution**	**No Contribution**
1	**Old Testament Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context**				
	Articulate a foundational knowledge of the historical/theological content of Scripture with application to selected contemporary situations.	X			
2	**Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text**				
	Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper.				X
3	**Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies**				
	Present practical ministry strategies utilizing biblical and theological principles.		X		
4	**Christian Ethics for Social Issues**				
	Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.	X			
5	**Theology and Theory of Ministry**				
	Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling.		X		
6	**Skills for Contemporary Ministry**				
	Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.	X			
7	**Knowledge of History of Christianity**				
	Present a basic knowledge of the history of Christianity.			X	
8	**Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrines**				
	Exhibit a basic knowledge of theology and Christian doctrines.			X	