

Syllabus for
PHIL 401 – Ethics
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2017

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. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

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 AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

Copan, Paul. *When God Goes to Starbucks*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008. ISBN 978-0801067433.

Wilkens, Steve. *Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics: An Introduction to Theories of Right and Wrong*. 2d ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 1995. ISBN 978-0830839360 or ISBN 0-830839364

Various handouts and online materials (detailed in class).

B. Recommended Materials

Jones, Stanton L. and Mark A. Yarhouse. *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000. ISBN 0-8308-1567-8

Norman, Richard. *The Moral Philosophers*. Oxford: Oxford, 1998. ISBN 0-19-875216-4

Lamp, Jeffery S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2011.

V. 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, 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.

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 the 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 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 ten percent (10%) 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.**
 - a. 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.**

- b. **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. **Four tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Assignments:	
Attendance/Participation	15%
Exams (2)	35%
Position Paper	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total:	100%

2. Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

3. Whole Person Assessment requirements: none.

4. Attendance/Participation (15%)

The student will complete Interactive Reading Reports while reading Wilkens, Copan, and selected articles and chapters. For each chapter the student will summarize the chapter, choose a topic with which to interact personally (e.g., questions and concerns, challenges to one's ethical/theological/ philosophical viewpoint, positive and negative implications/applications for ministry, work, Scriptural concerns . . .), and ask a critical question of the reading.

To receive full credit for participation, the student will complete the Interactive Reading Reports PRIOR to class *and* participate in class discussion. When absent, the reading must be emailed to the instructor prior to the start of class in order to receive 50% for that day's assignment. If the absence is administratively excused—80% credit may be earned.

5. Exams (65%)
Students will be knowledgeable about the ethical actions and philosophies presented in class as well as those which appear in the assigned readings and the course bibliography.
6. Position Paper (20%)
The student will write a 5-6 page (not including bibliography and title page) research position paper on an ethical issue with at least 4 scholarly resources. The student will submit a paper proposal earlier in the course. The student will submit an electronic copy (saved as a PDF format) into the D2L Dropbox (time stamp and plagiarism check). The paper is to be written according to the guidelines in Lamp's *Writing Style Manual*. See Calendar for due dates.

VI. Course Schedule

WEEK	TOPIC
1	General Introduction
2	Sources of (Christian) Ethical Discourse
3	Sources of (Christian) Ethical Discourse
4	Theopolitical Imagination
5	Christ and the Powers
6	The Church and the World
7	The Church and the World
8	Worship, Evangelism, and Ethics
9	Applied Ethics: War
10	Applied Ethics: Work & Economy
11	Applied Ethics: Bio-ethics & Ecology
12	Applied Ethics: Sexuality & Gender
13	Applied Ethics: Sexuality & Gender
14	TBD
15	TBD

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
THE 401—Christian Ethics
Fall 2017

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.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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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	Evangelistic capability	X			
2B	Ethical behavior	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		