



Introduction to Christian Ethics (THEO 2003)

Fall 2023 – Thursdays 1:00-5:00pm
Keizer Church of Christ, Keizer, Oregon

Instructor: Darren T. Williamson, PhD

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines Christian morality and ethics rooted in the teaching of Jesus. Other major contemporary ethical systems are also surveyed. Students practice ethical discernment on topics such as sexuality, family, food, environmentalism, consumerism, and wealth.

COURSE RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

Studying ethics is essential for developing a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. Christianity teaches that people are saved by the grace of God yet that same grace instructs them to “renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12). The renunciation of sin and the pursuit of virtue and holiness is to mark the ethical Christian life. This course’s objective is...

- To increase students’ understanding of the Biblical and philosophical foundations of ethics
- To equip students to read and analyze responsibly primary and secondary sources
- To enable students to think carefully and biblically about both classic ethical issues and new issues raised by modern developments in technology
- To encourage students to engage in thoughtful and respectful discussion of sensitive and controversial ethical issues

Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy

This course is an Oklahoma Christian University Bible course offered for credit at the Northwest School of Discipleship (NWSD), based in Tigard, Oregon. NWSD is a church-based educational initiative that seeks to help transform believers into the image of Christ through offering courses grounded in the three essential features of discipleship: Knowledge, Affection, Obedience.

Course Requirements

1. **Exams** (45%) – there are three exams during the course. Each exam has matching, identification, and essay questions. Note: exams are taken **outside of class** meeting times under proctors and conditions approved by the teacher.
2. **Essays** (20%) – each student will write two short reflection essays on issues in the study of Christian Ethics. Essays must be submitted at the time indicated in the course outline. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.
3. **Reading Quizzes** (20%) - each class day begins with a quiz over the assigned reading for the day. Quizzes consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.
4. **Participation** (15%) – Active participation in class discussion is critical to the educational benefit of the course.

Course Policies

Grading Policy:

Exams	-	45%
Essays	-	20%
Reading Quizzes	-	20%
Participation	-	<u>15%</u>
		100%

Course grades are calculated according to the following scale:

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

Required Texts:

1. Keith D. Stanglin, *Ethics Beyond Rules: How Christ's Call to Love Informs Our Moral Choices* (Zondervan, 2021).
2. Philip Graham Ryken, *Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today's Moral Crisis* (P & R Publishing, 2010).
3. ESV Study Bible

Oklahoma Christian University Policies

This course is accredited through Oklahoma Christian University and consequently the following policies apply:

Oklahoma Christian University Policy on Academic Honesty

Cheating

Cheating on examinations, assignments, roll sheets or other course related work or activities undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Cheating is one form of academic dishonesty. Cheating triggers the Consequences for Academic Dishonesty.

Plagiarism

One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another's ideas, words, or materials as one's own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Plagiarism is one form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism triggers the following consequences.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

1. First offense: the mandatory consequence for academic dishonesty with regard to an examination or assignment is zero (0) credit. Faculty have discretion to assign appropriate consequences for academic dishonesty other than on examinations or assignments. Faculty must send documentation of the first offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the CAO, and the Dean of Students.
2. Second offense: the mandatory consequence for a second incident of academic dishonesty, in the same course, during the same term, is a failing grade (F) in the course. Faculty shall provide documentation of the second offense to the appropriate academic leader, dean, CAO, and the Dean of Students.
3. Appeal: A student accused of academic dishonesty may appeal the determination using the process for Grade Appeals, found below.
4. Multiple Course Violations: When a student has been academically dishonest in more than one (1) course the Academic Appeals Committee may assign consequences up to and including suspension from the University. The Academic Appeals Committee will inform the CAO and the Dean of Students in writing of consequences imposed and will report annually on its activities to the University's Academic Affairs Committee.
5. Faculty should maintain the highest standards of academic honesty both in and out of the classroom. Faculty must report and apply the rules regarding academic dishonesty to the appropriate channels.

Copyright/Fair Use notice

Course materials provided or made available to students in class, online or via email are the property of Oklahoma Christian University, the instructor and other copyright holders and are

made available for the sole use of students enrolled in this class during the semester in which the student is enrolled. Students may keep one copy (print or digital) for personal use only and may not distribute the materials in any media format to any person without the express permission of the Oklahoma Christian University and the instructor. Original materials posted and authored by students may not be distributed under any circumstances.

Sources of Help

Tutoring	Student Success 405.425.5907 www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/
Writing Lab	Writer's Block http://writersblock.oc.edu/
Research Help	Library 405.425.5312 Ask a Librarian (libanswers.oc.edu) library.oc.edu
Information Technology	Support Central 405.425.5555 support.oc.edu/home
Blackboard Help	Link in Blackboard (usually on left side)
Calling & Career Office	Day Six (located directly below Admissions) Career counseling, strengths analysis, resume and portfolio building, interview mastery, network building, career search/ landing, and more. 405.425.5961 www.oc.edu/daysix

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Sharon Powell (405-425-1876) before your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, Sharon Powell, and the Office of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this course.

Testing Center

A number of special circumstances may require students to take a test outside of the classroom. You may qualify to use the Testing Center if: 1) you have testing accommodations that allow for additional support; 2) you are a student athlete and are unable to test during the scheduled time; or 3) other circumstances that prohibit you from taking an exam in the

classroom environment. Please contact studentsuccess@oc.edu for more information or questions.

Policy and Procedures Addressing Sexual Harassment (Title IX)

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community unequivocally committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and providing a campus environment that is free of unlawful discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct. OC's Policy and Procedures Addressing Sexual Misconduct are compliant with Title IX, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Sexual harassment is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trusts, and interferes with learning and productive work. Refer to the Student Handbook in MyOC for more information.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of sexual misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy to the Title IX Coordinator:

Title IX Coordinator	405.425.6463
Tamie Willis	titleix@oc.edu

Students have access to confidential services through OC's Counseling Center.

OC Counseling Center 405.425.5250

Course Outline

Week		Class Topics	Readings
1	Sept 14	Introduction to Christian Ethics What is Ethics? Ethical Decision-making.	STANGLIN, 3-54. Ryken, chpts 1-2 Quiz 1
2	Sept 21	Ethics and the Holiness of God Purity of Speech; Using the Bible in Ethics. Honoring God's name;	STANGLIN, 55-68. Ryken, chpts 4, 5, 6. ESV, 2535-37 Quiz 2
3	Sept 28	Ethics of Authority Lying and truth-telling; Submission to authority (parental, governmental, et al).	STANGLIN, 151-170 Ryken, chpt 8, 12 ESVSB, 2550-2551 Essay 1 due at beginning of class Quiz 3
			Exam 1 (Oct 3) – Taken outside class
4	Oct 5	Ethics and Human Life (Pt 1) Humans as <i>Imago Dei</i> and its ramifications for ethics (abortion, euthanasia, suicide)	STANGLIN, 101-114 Ryken, chpt 9 ESVSB 2537-2539 Quiz 4
5	Oct 12	No Class	
6	Oct 19	Ethics and Human Life (Pt 2) Humans as <i>Imago Dei</i> and its ramifications for ethics (Self-defense, warfare, racial discrimination, Bio-ethics, technology)	STANGLIN, 135-150, 171-188. ESVSB 2540-41, 2552-2558 Quiz 5
7	Oct 26	Sexual Ethics (Pt 1) God's design for sexuality (Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage, Pornography).	STANGLIN, 71-82 ESVSB 2543-2550. Ryken, chpt 10 Quiz 6
			Exam 2 (Oct 31) – Taken outside of class
8	Nov 2	Sexual Ethics (Pt 2) Christian ethics and Homosexuality and Transgenderism	STANGLIN 83-100 Williamson, "Male and Female He Made Them..." (handout) ESVSB 2547-2550. Essay 2 due at beginning of class Quiz 7
9	Nov 9	Ethics and Property and Wealth (Pt 1) Private property; poverty and wealth; work and rest;	STANGLIN, 115-134. Ryken, chpt 7, 11 ESVSB 2559-60. Quiz 8
10	Nov 16	Ethics and Property and Wealth (Pt 2) Stewardship of the environment; Business Ethics; personal financial stewardship.	STANGLIN, 189-210 Ryken, chpt 13 Quiz 9
			Exam 3 (Nov 17) – taken outside class