



COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: Eight weeks.

Course ID: THEO 3123

Course Title: Introduction to Ethics

College: College of Unrestricted Education - Department of Ministry & Theology

Prerequisites: Old Testament Interpretation, New Testament Interpretation

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course examines the philosophical and theological principles and issues related to ethics. It addresses meta-ethical questions about the relationship between moral language and concepts and various metaphysical and post-metaphysical views; normative ethical theories; theological structures and implications of ethics; and contemporary ethical issues.

Course Overview

Moral matters surround us every day. National issues such as immigration, racism, and LGBTQ rights bombard the TV screen. Local governments wrestle with allocating limited funds to seemingly equally important areas. You also face personal ethical dilemmas daily: Do I spend money on the luxuries of life and contribute toward capitalism and consumerism or do I use money for charitable causes? Do I gossip about what I heard about my friends or refrain? Do I make eye contact with the homeless person and acknowledge his or her humanity or do I quickly walk by?

Introduction to Ethics helps students begin their journey toward understanding the nature of ethics, its theories, and their consistent application. During this journey students will learn that ethics is rarely black and white. Even consistent application of particular ethical theories may lead to disagreements among their proponents. What this course attempts to do is instruct students how to live in this tension while learning to internalize and apply the right theory. Due to this tension, however, it will be important for students to keep an open mind, critically analyzing one's own ideas, being, and actions and the ideas, being, and actions of other. The goal of this course is to equip students to be critically informed thinkers who can navigate our current moral maze with rigor, empathy, and humility in Christ-likeness through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is 49.2 hours (6.15 hours per week).

Course Materials

1. Rae, Scott B. Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.
2. Swoboda, A. J. Subversive Sabbath: The Surprising Power of Rest in a Nonstop World. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2018.
3. Wytmsa, Ken. The Myth of Equality: Uncovering the Roots of Injustice and Privilege. Grand Rapids: InterVarsity Press, 2017.

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

1. Logic and rational argumentation
2. Normative ethics
3. Contemporary ethical issues
4. Theological ethics
5. Sabbath and ethics

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Develop a Christian worldview and apply it to ethical issues.
2. Analyze alternative moral worldviews from the posture of Christian charity.
3. Identify the sources, functions, and natures of ethical systems.
4. Recognize the complexity of ethical issues and the need for ethical commitments.
5. Determine how to make ethical decisions that are compassionate and theologically and philosophically informed.

Key Performance Indicators

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate their learning through performance-based activities and assessments.

Successful students will:

1. Discuss how Kingdom ethics inform contemporary ethical issues.
2. Make moral decisions through the use of the Model for Making Moral Decisions
3. Understand the complexities of ethical issues, the relationship between normative ethical theories and worldviews, and the need for humility and empathy.

4. Demonstrate through various evaluation methods an ability to discern the philosophical and theological bases of various ethical systems and evaluate them accordingly.
5. Converse with someone about race relations and critically reflect on the conversation utilizing the information learned from the course.
6. Understand why ethics is relevant and practical.

Late Work

Without prior arrangements, late work* submitted within one week of the original due date will be considered for partial credit. Work will ONLY be accepted for the first seven days after it is due. NO WORK will be accepted past the last day of the course.

*Discussion Posts: late participation in discussion forums is not accepted for late credit. The purpose of the discussion forum is to engage with your classmates on substantive ideas related to the course material, and your classmates will not revisit forums past the due dates. Similarly, professors will not revisit forums to grade past discussion due dates.

Professors of Foundational Core courses have been instructed to follow this policy to ensure fairness across all FC classes. Your professor will work with you if true emergencies occur, but your busy schedule will not be considered an emergency. If you have travel, a vacation, a wedding, or any other plannable event, it is up to you to communicate with your instructor to avoid grade penalties.

Extra Credit

None accepted.

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS

Aim



When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn



When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply



When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1

XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

Be sure you read the learning outcomes that your instructor has set for this week and then do your best to accomplish them.

- Define key terms.
- Discuss public ethical issues utilizing the basics of logic and rational argumentation.



Learn:

This section lists all your reading assignments and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the week.

- **Read:** *Moral Choices*, 4th Edition
 - Chapter 1
- **View:** Video: Course Introduction



Apply:

Now you're ready to demonstrate your learning for the week. The items below are those on which you'll be graded this week and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

- Week 1 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Tuesday (no replies are required).
 - Points: 100
- Quiz 1
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 10

MODULE 2:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX

 **Aim:**

- Identify various systems of ethics.
- Identify how deontological, teleological, and aretaic ethics act as integrated perspectives of Christian ethics.
- Discuss an ethical issue that students have previously faced, and the decisions and actions made to resolve the issue.

 **Learn:**

- **Read:** *Moral Choices*, 4th Edition
 - Chapter 2
- **View:** Lecture Video: Triperspectival Ethics

 **Apply:**

- Week 2 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial response), Monday (replies), Tuesday (final reply).
 - Points: Saturday (40), Monday (20, 20), Tuesday (20) = 100
- Quiz 2
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 10

MODULE 3:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

- Recognize ethics through the lens of the Kingdom of God.
- Identify the Isaianic marks of the Kingdom of God.
- Identify the ethics of Scripture, divine command theory, and natural law.
- Discuss how the marks of the Kingdom apply to current ethical issues.



Learn:

- **Read:** *Moral Choices*, 4th Edition
 - Chapter 3
- **View:** Video: Kingdom of God
- **View:** Lecture Video: Kingdom Ethics



Apply:

- Week 3 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial response), Monday (replies), Tuesday (final reply).
 - Points: Saturday (40), Monday (20, 20), Tuesday (20) = 100
- Quiz 3
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 10

MODULE 4:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

- Describe and apply the ethical spectrum as part of the model for making moral decisions on an ethical issue.
- Discuss the ethical nature of Sabbath-keeping.



Learn:

- **Read:** *Moral Choices*, 4th Edition
 - Chapter 4
- **Read:** *Subversive Sabbath*
 - Chapters 1, 4



Apply:

- Week 4 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial response), Monday (replies), Tuesday (final reply).
 - Points: Saturday (40), Monday (20, 20), Tuesday (20) = 100; or Video-conference: 100
- Contact Information (for the Week 4 Discussion Forum)
 - Due: Saturday
 - Points: 10
- Week 4 Model for Making Moral Decisions Activity
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 100

MODULE 5:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

- Reflect and discuss the various ethical elements of Sabbath-keeping based on this week's reading list.



Learn:

- **Read:** *Subversive Sabbath*
 - Chapters 5–8



Apply:

- Week 5 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial response), Monday (replies), Tuesday (final reply).
 - Points: Saturday (40), Monday (20, 20), Tuesday (20) = 100
- Quiz 4
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 10

MODULE 6:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

- Recall the survey of information on this week's readings.
- Reflect and discuss this week's readings.



Learn:

- **Read:** *Moral Choices*, 4th Edition
 - Chapters 12–14
 - Choose one chapter from Chapters 5–11



Apply:

- Week 6 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial response), Monday (replies), Tuesday (final reply).
 - Points: Saturday (40), Monday (20, 20), Tuesday (20) = 100
- Quiz 5
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 10

MODULE 7:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

- Reflect and discuss the issue of immigration, refugees, and border control with information learned from this week's readings on *The Myth of Equality*.
- Recall key terms in race studies.
- Recognize and identify the historical and sociological development of the idea of race and its applications.



Learn:

- **Read:** *Moral Choices*, 4th Edition
 - Chapter 16
- **Read:** *The Myth of Equality*
 - Chapters 1–4



Apply:

- Week 7 Model for Making Moral Decisions Activity
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 200
- Quiz 6
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 10

MODULE 8:
XX/XX/XX – XX/XX/XX



Aim:

- Identify and discuss theological issues related to race.



Learn:

- **Read:** *The Myth of Equality*
 - Ch. 5-Conclusion



Apply:

- Week 8 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial response), Monday (replies), Tuesday (final reply).
 - Points: Saturday (40), Monday (20, 20), Tuesday (20) = 100
- Dialogue and Critical Reflection Paper
 - Due: Tuesday.
 - Points: 100

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Forums

Description

The discussion forum intends to apply the week's learning in a communal environment for critical reflection and dialogue.

Total Possible Points

710

Grade Weight

40%

Quizzes

Description

The quizzes intend to assess the student's understanding of the respective week's reading assignments.

Total Possible Points

60

Grade Weight

20%

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Model for Making Decisions Activities

Description

This exercise intends to help students internalize and practice making moral decisions on various ethical issues.

Total Possible Points

300

Grade Weight

20%

Dialogue and Critical Reflection Paper

Description

Having read the key terms, concepts, historical and sociological developments of race, and the theological-ethical elements of the gospel, engage in sustained, constructive, and critical dialogue with someone on the issue, preferably a pastor or a Christian leader. Discuss the ideas you've read and incorporate them with the perspective of Kingdom ethics, explaining the concept to your interlocutor if necessary. Write a four- to six-page critical reflection utilizing the following questions: (1) With whom did you converse? (2) What is their view and attitude on the matter? (3) Did the dialogue partners take the issue seriously and consider and represent the opposite views clearly and charitably? (4) How did Kingdom perspective influence the interlocutors' views? Did it influence the issue at all? (5) What did you agree and disagree on, and why? (6) What critiques were made in the conversation? (7) What were the interlocutors' beliefs on the key terms and concepts, especially about justice and the gospel, the existence or non-existence of power and privilege, and implicit bias? (8) How do the interlocutors think the Church should be involved in the issue? (9) What are practical ways to address the issue in the Church?

- The paper must be double-spaced and utilize 12-point Times New Roman font with a one-inch margin all around. Only the student's name is required on the paper. No excessive spacing is accepted.
- Utilize clear flow and good grammar.

Total Possible Points

100

Grade Weight

20%