



Course Syllabus

Section 1: Course Information

Format

Eight weeks

Course ID

PHIL 2003

Course Title

Principles of Ethics

College

College of Christian Ministries & Religion

Prerequisites

None

Credit Hours

3

Instructor

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

Course Description



An examination of moral and social conduct and decision making in light of biblical and theological teaching. Contemporary ethical issues are addressed (abortion, euthanasia, human rights, etc.). This course requires careful study of and reflection upon the appropriate biblical texts. This course is cross-referenced with PMIN 2003 and THEO 2003.

Course Overview

This course provides an overview of philosophical and theological perspectives on ethics from the lens of mere Christianity. The study of ethics is a critical part of being a well-rounded human being. First, ethics is an unavoidable part of life. When we or our loved ones are violated in some form, a sense of justice arises within ourselves. Second, a wide variety of different moral beliefs and standards inundate our daily lives through several distinct mediums, such as mass and social media, peers, school, and books. Because of this, it is easy to unconsciously adapt ethical beliefs and standards that are antithetical to or inconsistent with the Christian faith.

Through philosophy, we will explore atheistic and Christian positions on the existence and nonexistence of morality, and how Christianity can best account for moral reality. Theologically, we will look at how Jesus and the Kingdom of God should shape our ethical knowledge and acts.

Ethics will always be a controversial and complex field. Yet, it is one of the most relevant fields in our day-to-day lives. Therefore, we will also engage specific ethical issues, such as divorce and remarriage, war and violence, and abortion. By practicing informed ethical reflection, students will be able to share their viewpoints, even contrary ones, in a safe environment.

SEU Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

Equipping students to discover and develop their divine design to serve Christ and the world through Spirit-empowered life, learning, and leadership.

Vision Statement

Southeastern University is anchored by Spirit-empowered education in a Christ-centered, student-focused learning community. Southeastern's global impact is marked by a deep commitment to transforming minds and engaging culture through the integration of faith, learning and service. Each student's divine design is nurtured and unleashed through the investment of faculty and staff, relationships within the community, the rigor of scholarship, diverse learning experiences and the discipline of spiritual formation, which propels students into a lifetime of serving the world in the Spirit of Christ.

In addition to our mission and vision statement, we hold fundamental truths about the Christian faith that include the following:

- The Scriptures are inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind.
- There is only one true God who is revealed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
- Jesus Christ, as God's son, was both fully human and divine.

We are proud of our affiliation with the Assemblies of God and our Pentecostal tradition. We are also proud to be a welcoming community for



students from all Christian backgrounds and denominations. Our campus includes many Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, etc., as well as nondenominational students. Everyone shares a strong commitment to knowing Christ and making Him known, and we celebrate our theological similarities while appreciating our differences.

Refer to [Human Sexuality](#) for additional details related to What We Believe.

Course Materials

1. Austin, Victor Lee. *Christian Ethics*. London: Bloomsbury, 2012.
2. Baggett, David, and Jerry L. Walls. *Good God: The Theistic Foundations of Morality*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
3. Gushee, David P, and Glen H. Stassen. *Kingdom Ethics*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

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. Metaethics: Moral ontology and epistemology
2. Normative ethics
3. Applied ethics
4. Problem of evil
5. Ethics of the Kingdom of God
6. Moral agency
7. Free will and determinism
8. Is/ought problem and the naturalistic fallacy
9. Virtues and vices

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. Evaluate non-Christian worldviews.
3. Comprehend the complexity of contemporary ethical issues.
4. Understand the sources, function, and nature of ethical systems.
5. Remember the elements of a model for making moral decisions and apply them to ethical issues.
6. Know how to make ethical decisions that are compassionate and biblically and philosophically informed.
7. Use the information gained in this class in one's life and vocational calling.



Key Performance Indicators

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

Successful students will:

1. Identify various worldviews and explain their similarities and differences to Christianity.
2. State the complexities of an ethical issue.
3. Demonstrate through various evaluation methods an ability to discern the philosophical and theological bases of various ethical systems and evaluate them accordingly.
4. Discuss the sources of the knowledge of God and morality and how these sources of knowledge relate to God's nature.
5. Understand the biblical basis for Christian ethics through the lens of the Kingdom of God
6. Understand and reflect on some of the major ethical issues of our time.
7. Understand why ethics is relevant and practical.
8. Be able to articulate how ethics is a valuable tool for Christian apologetics

Section 2: Course Policies

Grading Scale

The university's general grading scale is provided in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the [Southeastern University Catalog](#). All online courses use the following scale:

A	94 – 100%
A-	90% to 93%
B+	87% to 89%
B	84% to 86%
B-	80% to 83%
C+	77% to 79%
C	74% to 76%
C-	70% to 73%
D+	67% to 69%
D	64% to 66%
D-	60% to 63%
F	0% to 59%



Late Work

Late work is not accepted unless there is documentation of an emergency. This policy is dependent on the particular instructor.

Extra Credit

None accepted.

Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online course. The instructor will monitor student activity and participation through MyFIRE. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board posts and responses, chat, or conference sessions and group projects.

Official Email

You are expected to check your SEU webmail account **daily** during the course term. All written correspondence between instructor and student must be handled through the SEU email system.

MyFire Use

Please, make it a habit to always check your MyFIRE account as messages; assignments, grades, and other important related materials may be posted. It is the student's responsibility to check grades and notify your instructor if you have questions.



Technical Difficulties

Southeastern University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty that prevents students from completing a time-sensitive activity or assessment, students should report any problems to the instructor and also contact the 24x7 MyFIRE Support Center via the link provided.

Be sure your computer system complies with all SEU Technical Requirements. These requirements are listed within MyFIRE and a Browser Checker is provided to ensure the browser you are using is compatible with MyFIRE.

Technical Support

- Phone: (800) 985-9781
- Email: support@learninghouse.com



Disability Statement

Southeastern University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for all students with learning and/or physical disabilities, as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This legislation guarantees educational rights for the physically and learning disabled.

Students with medical diagnoses that qualify them for accommodations must contact ADA services at (863) 667-5283, or e-mail ADAservices@seu.edu. Once medical documentation is provided and a confidential consultation is completed, the student will then be responsible to provide the director of academic and auxiliary services with a list of his or her current professors and their e-mails.

Contact with the Office of Academic and Auxiliary Services is mandatory for each new semester. For more information, visit the SEU [students with disabilities](#) page on our website.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense at Southeastern. It undermines the educational process and, when done intentionally, violates the integrity of the community.

*Plagiarism occurs when a writer uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source.**

Plagiarism includes unattributed use of any source, in any medium, published or unpublished.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Quoting or paraphrasing material without attributing it to its source
- Copying segments from the work of others without giving proper credit
- Submitting as original work written entirely by someone else

Widely known facts do not require citation and do not count as plagiarism so long as they are communicated in the writer's own words. Ideas and observations original to the writer also do not require citation.

Work already submitted for a grade in another course may not be resubmitted unless the professor specifically states otherwise.

For more information, visit the SEU [Plagiarism page](#) on our website.

Course Evaluation

In order to help us to assess the effectiveness of our courses and instructors, please complete the course evaluation. **If you receive a course evaluation for this course, you are required to complete it.**

Official Withdrawal

To officially withdrawal from this course you must consult the Registrar's Office for details.

Netiquette

General Rules of Netiquette

- Make your messages easier to read by making your paragraphs short and to the point.
- DO NOT SHOUT BY TYPING IN ALL CAPS.
- Utilize humor in appropriate forms. Avoid hostile, abusive, libelous, or rude comments. No vulgar, sexist, racist, biased, or other objectionable language will be tolerated.
- Reinforce others in the course (e.g., "Good presentation!" or "Thanks for the feedback."). Valid criticism is acceptably expressed in the form of thoughtful alternatives. Do not insult or "flame" others.
- Think twice and send once. The old carpenter adage to measure twice and cut once holds great value here. Once you send something not well-thought out you will find it difficult and time-consuming to recover. Think about what you want the group and the professor to think about you.

- Use spell-check and grammar-check. The little errors commonly accepted in email or text-messaging with friends and family are distracting and inappropriate in a college discussion forum.
- In an online discussion forum, debate is welcome, but be tactful in responding to others. Remember that there's a person (or a whole class) at the receiving end of your post.
- If you quote a previous post (by using the reply function for example), quote only enough to make your own point.
- If you want to get in touch with only one person in the class, send a message to that individual's e-mail address, not to the entire discussion list.

Section 3: Course Schedule

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by week 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.

Withdraw: The last day to withdraw from this course is the last day of Week 5

Week 1: 8/24/16 - 8/30/16

Aim

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

1. Identify the different fields of ethics: meta-ethics, normative ethics, applied ethics, and descriptive ethics
2. Define key terms
3. Discuss your moral theory, or discuss the significance of a reading or resource you read this week.

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: *Christian Ethics*: Introduction, Chapter 1 & 2
- Read: Lecture
- View: Videos

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.

- Discussion for Week 1
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 1
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100



Week 2: 8/31/16 - 9/6/16

Aim

1. Identify normative ethics
2. Identify the key concepts of deontological, teleological, and virtue ethics
3. Identify the interrelated relationship between the three perspectives (triperspectivalism)
4. Explain the role of narratives in moral thinking
5. Identify about the is/ought or naturalistic fallacy
6. Identify the sources for moral reflection
7. Discuss how ethics are shaped, or discuss the significance of a reading or resource you read this week.

Learn

- Read: *Christian Ethics*: Chapter 3
- Read: Lecture
- View: Videos

Apply

- Discussion for Week 2
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 2
 - Due: Tuesday

Week 3: 9/7/16 - 9/13/16



Aim

1. Identify moral apologetics
2. Identify various theistic and atheistic theories on the ground of morality
3. Identify the Euthyphro dilemma
4. Recognize voluntarism (Divine Command Theory) and nonvoluntarism
5. Discuss the role of freedom and determinism for morality, or construct your best moral argument for God's existence, or discuss the significance of a reading or resource you read this week

Learn

- Read: *Good God*: Chapter 1, 2 (up to pg. 39. Pg. 39-48 are recommended, but not required), 3 (up to pg. 54), 4, 5
- Read: Lecture
- View: Videos

Apply

- Discussion for Week 3
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 3

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 100

Week 4: 9/14/16 - 9/20/16



Aim

1. Recognize how knowledge of goodness relates to God
2. Identify the problem of evil
3. Identify the order of being and the order of knowing
4. Discuss the problem of evil, or discuss the significance of a reading or resource you read this week

Learn

- Read: *Good God*: Chapter 6 (Not pg. 105-106) - 9
- Read: Lecture
- View: Videos

Apply

- Discussion for Week 4
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 4
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100



Week 5: 9/21/16 - 9/27/16

Aim

1. Identify the basic concepts of Kingdom ethics
2. Recognize the virtues of the Sermon on the Mount
3. Identify the four levels of moral norms
4. Discuss how have you understood the Kingdom of God and what it means to be a Christian, or discuss the significance of a reading or resource you read this week

Learn

- Read: *Kingdom Ethics*: Chapter 1, 2, 4
- Read: Lecture

Apply

- Discussion for Week 5
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 5
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100



Week 6: 9/28/16 - 10/4/16

Aim

1. Identify the transforming initiatives of the Sermon on the Mount
2. Identify the cardinal ethical norms of love, justice, and the sacredness of life
3. Discuss your evaluation of the author's definition of love as delivering love, or the implications of the author's view on loving one's enemies, or the significance of a reading or resource you read this week

Learn

- Read: *Kingdom Ethics*: Chapter 5-8
- Read: Lecture

Apply

- Discussion for Week 6
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 6
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100



Week 7: 10/5/16 - 10/11/16

Aim

1. Identify the four dimensions of moral agency
2. Engage both the four dimensions of moral agency and the triperspectival view of ethics
3. Identify the seven deadly sins
4. Discuss a question that revolves around you and your ecclesial community, or the significance of a reading or resource you read this week

Learn

- Read: *Kingdom Ethics*: Chapter 9-10
- Read: Lecture

Apply

- Discussion for Week 7
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Quiz for Week 7
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100



Week 8: 10/12/16 - 10/18/16

Aim

1. Identify the 7 Kingdom virtues
2. Identify the issues revolving around divorce and remarriage
3. Choose an ethical issue for discuss

Learn

- Read: *Kingdom Ethics*: Chapter 14, 16 for final exam
- Read: *Kingdom Ethics*: Choose a chapter from 11-21 for discussion (in addition to chapters 14 & 16)
- Read: Lecture

Apply

- Discussion for Week 8
 - Due: Saturday (original post), Monday (two response posts), Tuesday (final response post).
 - Points: 100 (40 for original post; 20 for each response post (two posts); 20 for final response post).
- Final Exam
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 450

Section 4: Assessments

Discussion Forums

Description

Discussion forums that prompt interaction amongst peers. You'll have three different posts:

- Original post, which is a response to the question.
- Two response posts, which are responses to peer's original posts.
- Final post, which is a final reply to your peer's responses to your original post.

Total Possible Points

800

Grade Weight

40%



Quizzes

Description

Weekly quizzes over the readings.

Total Possible Points

700

Grade Weight

40%

**Final Exam****Description**

A final exam that covers the readings and weekly quizzes.

Total Possible Points

450

Grade Weight

20%