



SURVEY OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS (29250 CT & PH115 CT)
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Russell D. Moore

Distinguished Professor of Christian Ethics
President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

May 22-23, 2017

Southern Baptist Convention Building
901 Commerce St.
Nashville, TN 37203

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to Christian ethics, with attention given to methodology, biblical foundations, types of Christian ethical thought, and Christian responsibility in relation to current social problems

OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course should demonstrate the following competencies:

- 1.) Draw from the whole counsel of Scripture to articulate a biblically and theologically coherent vision of ecclesial, personal, social, and political ethics.
- 2.) Defend the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ by evaluating contemporary ethical models from the perspective of conservative evangelical orthodoxy and historic Baptist confessionalism.
- 3.) Equip the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ by training a new generation of Christians toward maturity in Christ through personal integrity and counter-cultural ecclesiology.
- 4.) Magnify the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ by recognizing the coherence all ethical wisdom finds in Him as the pinnacle of revelation, the goal of creation, the head of the church, and the savior of the world.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Wendell Berry. *Sex, Economy, Freedom, and Community: Eight Essays* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1993). (208 pages) | [Amazon](#)

John Jefferson Davis. *Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today*, 4th ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2015). (400 pages) | [Amazon](#)



Dennis P. Hollinger. *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002. (304 pages) | [Amazon](#)

Russell Moore. *Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel*. Nashville: B&H, 2015. (240 pages) | [Amazon](#)

GARRETT FELLOW

Andrew T. Walker
PhD student in Christian Ethics
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Email: awalker@erlc.com

The Garrett Fellow will reply to email inquiries within two days of the initial email.

RECOMMENDED READING

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (New York: Owl Books, 2001).

Arthur Holmes, ed., *War and Christian Ethics: Classic and Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

Leon Kass, *Human Cloning and Human Dignity: The Report of the President's Council on Bioethics* (New York: Public Affairs, 2002).

Marvin Olasky, *Abortion Rites: A Social History of Abortion in America* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1992).

Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000).

Matthew Scully, *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2002).

W. Bradford Wilcox, *Soft Patriarchs, New Men: How Christianity Shapes Fathers and Husbands* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004).

COURSE REQUIRMENTS



1.) Attendance and Class Participation. Each student is expected to attend class lectures and to participate in classroom discussions. Class discussion will also be especially important, as the class will discuss the assigned reading.

2.) Reading Assignments. Read in their entirety each of the required textbooks. A reading statement must be submitted, which simply is a signed statement that you have read all the material. Failure to complete the reading in its entirety will reduce the student's grade significantly. The reading statement should be uploaded to Canvas by 5 PM ET on June 16th.

3.) Online content. Watch in their entirety each of the following online content pieces related to the subject matter of the course. An online content viewing statement must be submitted, which simply is a signed statement that you viewed all the material. Failure to complete the online material in its entirety will significantly reduce the student's grade. The online content viewing statement should be uploaded to Canvas by 5 PM ET on June 16th.

Each of the listings below is hyperlinked to YouTube videos.

- Robert George, "Religious Liberty and the Human Good" (1 hour, 24 Minutes)
- Scott Klusendorf, "On Pro-Life Apologetics" (41 minutes)
- Albert Mohler, "Aftermath: Ministering In A Post-Marriage Culture" (42 minutes)
- Jay W. Richards, "Money, Greed, and God" (55 minutes)
- Al Mohler and Jim Wallis: Is Social Justice an Essential Part of the Mission of the Church? (2 hours, 15 minutes)
- Ryan T. Anderson "What is Marriage?" (55 minutes)
- Brad Wilcox, "The Good Dad: The Transformative Power of Fatherhood for Men and Children" (55 Minutes)

4.) Final Examination. Each of the students will complete a final examination, covering the in-class lecture material. It will be distributed on the final day of the seminar. You will have 2 consecutive hours to complete your final exam at a time of your choosing. Your answer must be uploaded to Canvas by 5 PM ET on June 2, 2017.

COURSE GRADING

Final Examination: 40%

Book reading and class participation: 30%

Online content assignment: 30%

POSSIBLE COURSE TOPICS

- Christology and Ethics; Ethics as Ecclesial, Personal, Social, and Political
- Religious Liberty and Church/State Relations
- Sexuality (Gender, Marriage, Pornography, Divorce, Remarriage, Etc.)



- Human Life (Contraception, Abortion, Reproductive Technology, Cloning, Etc.)
- War, Justice, and Peacemaking
- Capital Punishment and Criminal Justice
- Environmental Protection and Animal Stewardship
- Poverty and Economic Ethics
- Racial Reconciliation

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Students are expected to be in Nashville from Monday afternoon at 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM on Tuesday.

All travel, logistical, housing, and eating expenses are the responsibility of the student.