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## CS 601 Christian Ethics

Joseph B. Onyango Okello

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## Syllabus

**Course:** CS601 O1 (SP 2009)

**Title:** Christian Ethics

**Hours:** 2.00

**Published:** Yes, on 01/20/2009

**Prerequisites:**

IS501

**Department:** Church in Society

**Faculty:** Mr. Joseph Okello



Email: [joseph.okello@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:joseph.okello@asburyseminary.edu)

Office: AD

SPO: 1306

### Meetings:

On Friday, 02/13/2009 from 9:00a to 5:00p in EXLEXL.

On Friday, 03/13/2009 from 9:00a to 5:00p in EXLEXL.

On Friday, 04/17/2009 from 9:00a to 5:00p in EXLEXL.

**Maximum Registration:** 35

**Catalog Description:** Prepares students to analyze and address the moral life from a Christian perspective. Introduces students to historical and contemporary sources for Christian ethics. Explores how responses to moral problems and integrity shape the Christian community. Provides a foundation for further studies in Christian ethics and for congregational/institutional responses to social and moral concerns.

## Objectives:

CS 601: Christian Ethics

### CS 601: Christian Ethics

#### Spring 2009 Course Syllabus Dunnam Campus

#### Meeting Days: Fridays

**Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Dates: February 13, March 13 and April 17.**

**Professor: Joseph B. O. Okello**

### Course Description:

Prepares students to analyze and address the moral life from a Christian perspective. Introduces students to historical and contemporary sources for Christian ethics. Explores how responses to moral problems and integrity shape the Christian community. Provides a foundation for further studies in Christian ethics and for congregational and institutional responses to social and moral concerns.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe different ethical views (secular and religious) dominating ethical deliberations and discussions.
2. Explain major historical and contemporary sources for Christian ethics.
3. Explain how responses to moral problems and integrity shape the Christian community.
4. Delineate a foundation for congregational/institutional responses to social and moral concerns.

**Required Course Texts:**

Clark, David K and Robert V. Rakestraw, *Readings in Christian Ethics Volume 2: Issues and Applications*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007. Abbreviated as "RICE" in Course Schedule, ISBN: 9780801020568

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Ethics: Options and Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989. Abbreviated as "G" in Course Schedule, ISBN: 0801038324

Holmes, Arthur F. *Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions*. Downer's Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1984. Abbreviated as "E" in Course Schedule. ISBN: 9780877843429

**Course Requirements**

- The student will be expected to attend all class sessions. Excused absence will be given only under extenuating circumstances and/or unavoidable emergencies. Once the excused absence is granted, it will be student's responsibility to make up for missed classes.
- Classroom Discussions: These will involve debating controversial issues. At the beginning of the Semester, students will be divided into groups, and each group will be assigned the topics to be debated. The topics will be in the form of case studies outlined at the end of each section of the "RICE" course text entitled "For Further Reflection." These are found on pages 52, 90, 132, 173, 219, 255, 288, 332, 377, 417, 486 & 521.
- The student will read and make notes from Arthur F. Holmes' *Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions*. The notes will be due the last day of class. The notes should be written as a summary of the book in a way that demonstrates an understanding of the issues presented.
- The student will be expected to write two 5 – 8 page double-spaced regular font term papers. The first paper is due March 29 at 5:00 p.m. The second paper is due on the last day of class, May 3, at 5:00 p.m. Each paper should be an in depth study of any one of the ethical theories or issues discussed during the course of the semester, going beyond the items of the classroom lecture. Each paper should pay attention to the following guidelines:
  - It should have a clearly stated thesis. In other words, it should state the view it intends to defend or the question it intends to answer.
  - It should state, where available, any opposing view(s) and the reasons supporting the view(s).
  - It should state why the view being defended is the correct one. In other words, the paper should give reasons why the view in question is acceptable and why the Church should apply the principles embedded in that view.
  - It should be Biblically sound in terms of doctrine, factually correct and logically consistent.
  - It should also be clear in expression. In other words, the student should pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuations.

**Course Evaluation**

- Attendance: Comprises 10% of course grade.
- Classroom Discussions (See Course Schedule): Comprises 10% of course grade.
- Reading Notes: Comprises 20% of course grade.
- First Term Paper: 20% of course grade.
- Second Term Paper: 20% of course grade.

**Grading Procedure:**

A= 95 – 100, A- = 90 – 94, B+ = 85 – 89, B = 80 – 84, B- = 75 – 79, C+ = 70 – 74, C = 65 – 69, C- = 60 – 64, D+ = 55 – 59, D= 50 – 54, D- = 45 – 49, F = Below 45.

**Course Schedule**

Meeting Days	Topic	Page Numbers
February 13 8:00 – 9:50	Introduction	
February 13 9:00 – 9:50	All Ethical Options	G: 17 – 28
February 13 10:00 – 10:50	Antinomianism	G:29-42
February 13 11:00 – 11:50	Situationism	G:43 – 62
February 13 1:00 – 1:50	Generalism	G:63-78
February 13 2:00 – 2:50	Absolutism	G:79 – 112
February 13 3:00 – 3:50	Absolutism	G:113 – 136
February 13 4:00 – 4:50	Abortion	RICE: 21 – 51, G:135 – 156

March 13 8:00 – 8:50	Reproductive Technologies & Genetics/Biomedical Issues	RICE: 57 – 89 G:173 – 192
March 13 9:00 – 9:50	Euthanasia	RICE: 95 – 131, G:157 – 172
March 13 10:00 – 10:50	Sexuality	RICE: 139 – 172
March 13 11:00 – 11:50	Homosexuality	RICE: 177 – 218, G: 257 – 276
March 13 1:00 – 1:50	Divorce and Remarriage	RICE: 225 – 254, 277 – 292
March 13 2:00 – 2:50	Race Relations	RICE:261 – 287
March 13 3:00 – 3:50	Gender Issues	RICE:293 – 331
March 13 4:00 – 4:50	Wealth & Economics	RICE:339 – 376
March 13 5:00	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Term paper Due</b>	

April 17 8:00 – 8:50	Caring for the Environment/Ecology	RICE: 381 – 416, G:293 – 310
April 17 9:00 – 9:50	Civil Disobedience	RICE:423 – 446, G:239 – 256
April 17 10:00 – 10:50	Capital Punishment	RICE: 451 – 485, G:193 – 215
April 17 11:00 – 11:50	Peace & War	RICE: 489 – 522, G:215 – 237
April 17 1:00 – 1:50	Classroom Discussions	
April 17 2:00 – 2:50	Classroom Discussions	

April 17 3:00 – 3:50	Classroom Discussions	
April 17 4:00 – 4:50	Classroom Discussions	
April 17 5:00	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term Paper Due</b>	