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# CS 601 Christian Ethics

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**CS 601: Christian Ethics**

**Spring 2007 Course Syllabus Dunnam Campus**

**Meeting Days: Saturdays**

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

**Dates: February 23, March 29 and May 3.**

**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**

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. It should state, where available, any opposing view(s) and the reasons supporting the view(s).
  - c. 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.
  - d. It should be Biblically sound in terms of doctrine, factually correct and logically consistent.
  - e. It should also be clear in expression. In other words, the student should pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuations.

### Course Evaluation

1. Attendance: Comprises 10% of course grade.
2. Classroom Discussions (See Course Schedule): Comprises 10% of course grade.
3. Reading Notes: Comprises 20% of course grade.
4. First Term Paper: 20% of course grade.
5. 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 23 8:00 – 9:50   | Introduction        |                            |
| February 23 9:00 – 9:50   | All Ethical Options | G: 17 – 28                 |
| February 23 10:00 – 10:50 | Antinomianism       | G:29-42                    |
| February 23 11:00 – 11:50 | Situationism        | G;43 – 62                  |
| February 23 1:00 – 1:50   | Generalism          | G:63-78                    |
| February 23 2:00 – 2:50   | Absolutism          | G:79 – 112                 |
| February 23 3:00 – 3:50   | Absolutism          | G:113 – 136                |
| February 23 4:00 – 4:50   | Abortion            | RICE: 21 – 51, G:135 – 156 |

|                        |  |                               |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| March 29 8:00 – 8:50   | Reproductive Technologies & Genetics/Biomedical Issues | RICE: 57 – 89 G:173 – 192     |
| March 29 9:00 – 9:50   | Euthanasia   | RICE: 95 – 131, G:157 – 172   |
| March 29 10:00 – 10:50 | Sexuality  | RICE: 139 – 172               |
| March 29 11:00 – 11:50 | Homosexuality  | RICE: 177 – 218, G: 257 – 276 |
| March 29 1:00 – 1:50   | Divorce and Remarriage                                 | RICE: 225 – 254, 277 – 292    |
| March 29 2:00 – 2:50   | Race Relations   | RICE:261 – 287                |
| March 29 3:00 – 3:50   | Gender Issues  | RICE:293 – 331                |
| March 29 4:00 – 4:50   | Wealth & Economics                                     | RICE:339 – 376                |
| March 29 5:00          | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Term paper Due</b>                   |                               |

|                     |                                      |                              |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| May 3 8:00 – 8:50   | Caring for the Environment/Ecology   | RICE: 381 – 416, G:293 – 310 |
| May 3 9:00 – 9:50   | Civil Disobedience                   | RICE:423 – 446, G:239 – 256  |
| May 3 10:00 – 10:50 | Capital Punishment                   | RICE: 451 – 485, G:193 – 215 |
| May 3 11:00 – 11:50 | Peace & War                          | RICE: 489 – 522, G:215 – 237 |
| May 3 1:00 – 1:50   | Classroom Discussions                |                              |
| May 3 2:00 – 2:50   | Classroom Discussions                |                              |
| May 3 3:00 – 3:50   | Classroom Discussions                |                              |
| May 3 4:00 – 4:50   | Classroom Discussions                |                              |
| May 3 5:00          | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term Paper Due</b> |                              |