

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

PS6607 Professional Ethics, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course is a review of Christian ethics methodology, including central concepts and their relation to broader theological and philosophical concerns within various cultural contexts. It includes biblical, theological, and philosophical perspectives on select contemporary issues relevant to Christian living. This course will also address legal, practical, and ethical considerations associated with ministry related practices.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to...

1. Explain ethical principles related to the practice of ministry.
2. Critically evaluate Christian ethics from a theological, philosophical and cultural perspectives.
3. Implement a pattern of moral and ethical behavior in personal life.
4. Articulate a Christian response to the essential ethical dilemmas of the day.

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Textbooks:

- Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009. ISBN: 9780310291091
- Trull, Joe E. and James E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders*. Grand Rapids, MI Baker, 2004. ISBN: 9780801027550

Other Required Materials:

- Logos Research Systems, Inc. *Logos Bible Software 6 – Silver Library*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc, 2015

Supplemental Materials (Recommended for future study, but not required):

- Feinberg, John S., Paul D. Feinberg, and Aldous Huxley. *Ethics for a Brave New World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010 ISBN: 9781581347128
- Green, Joel B., Jacqueline E. Lapsley, Rebekah Miles, and Allen Verhey. *Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011. 9780801034060 (Available in Logos)

Assignments

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT).

Standard for Written Papers: All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

Assignment List

Assignment 1-1 Paper 1 – Introduction to Professional Ethics Paper: As an introduction to your personal ethical ministerial code, describe your understanding (and the relevance of) the following: (a) the difference between morality and ethics, (b) normative ethics and the role pastors play as an authority, and (c) deontological systems and its use within a local church. This will be combined (and revised) for your final paper in Week 7. (3 pages total)

Assignment 1-2 Bible Study Outline on Pursuing Justice: Based on the insights from chapter 2 in Rae, put together a one-page Bible study outline that provides biblical support for the mandate to pursue justice for the oppressed and vulnerable. End the study with one example of the way you practiced this (as an ethical behavior) in your personal life this week (you must practice this). (1-page total)

Assignment 2-1 Paper 2 – Problematic Ethical Systems and My Chosen Approach: Your personal ethical code is based on an ethical system, this paper is designed to state why you've rejected certain approaches and positively which approach you embrace. Make sure you state clearly your method/model of moral reasoning. (3 pages total)

Assignment 2-2 Chart – The Seven-Step Model: Craft a chart that overviews the seven-step model of ethical decision-making (make sure to highlight key principles as they apply to a personal ministry/pastoral challenge).

Assignment 3-1 Case Study 1 – The Unwanted Pregnancy: Answer all four questions to Case 5.1: The Unwanted Pregnancy on pp. 149-150. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 3-2 Case Study 2 – Counseling the Infertile Couple: Answer the five questions for Case 6.1: Counseling the Infertile Couple on pp. 185-86. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 4-1 Case Study 3 – Gender Selection for Family Balancing: Answer the three questions for Case 7.1: Gender Selection for Family Balancing on pp. 208-9. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 4-2 Case Study 4 – Your Father’s Living Will: Answer the three questions for Case 8.1: Your Father’s Living Will on pp. 242-43. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 5-1 Case Study 5 – You’re On the Jury: Answer the four questions in Case 9.1: You’re on the Jury on pp. 267-68. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 5-2 Case Study 6 – Wrestling with Sexual Orientation: Answer the three questions for Case 10.1: Wrestling with Sexual Orientation on pp. 298-99. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 6-1 Case Study 7 – Iraq as Just War: Answer the three questions in Case 11.1: Iraq as Just War on p. 325. 2 pages. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 6-2 Case Study 8 – Conflicts of Conscience: Answer the three questions in Case 12.3: Conflicts of Conscience on p. 360. (2 pages total) (NB: You are going to write a one-paragraph summary of this in your final paper).

Assignment 7-1 Paper 3 – Ministerial Code of Ethics Paper: Combine the sections of your previously submitted papers (with appropriate corrections and revisions, around 12 pages) into your personal theology and practice of the ethics of pastoral ministry (your personal code). This paper should also include 3 new pages addressing legal, practical, and ethical issues related to ministry practice from this week’s reading. Also, you should condense down your case studies into eight summary paragraphs as illustrations of your personal code (3 pages total). This paper ends up being around 18 pages (include your charts as appendices), though technically you are only writing 3 new pages (plus summarizing your case studies). Finally, include a cover page and bibliography (find new resources for future study).

Assignment 7-2 Sermon – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8: Preach a 20-30 minute expository sermon using the Big Idea approach to preaching taught in the M.Div. program on cohabitation and fornication (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8). The sermon, on this sexual ethics issue must be video recorded and uploaded to a video-sharing website (YouTube or Vimeo) and the link uploaded with the submission of the final form of the sermon outline/manuscript/summary (NB: You’ve already done significant exegetical work on this in the online course Greek Syntax and Exegetical Method).

Assessments

Assessments	% of Total
Discussions (7 posts with 1 response per post)	20
Assignment 1-1 Paper 1	5
Assignment 1-2 Bible Study Outline	5
Assignment 2-1 Paper 2	5
Assignment 2-2 Chart: The Seven Step Model	5
Assignments 3-1, 3-2, 4-1, 4-2, 5-1, 5-2, 6-1, 6-2 Case Studies (8 x 2.5 each)	20
Assignment 7-1 Personal Code of Ethics	20
Assignment 7-2 Sermon	20
Total:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at my.moody.edu. If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>. Here are additional tutorials on how to use the Crowell Library:

- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **Overview**" - http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video_Files/BI-5528_Koehler_Overview.wmv
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **References**" - <http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses->

[Blackboard/Video Files/BI-5528 Koehler Reference.wmv](#)

- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **eBooks**" - <http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video Files/BI-5528 Koehler eBooks.wmv>
- "Finding Resources in the Moody Online Library: **Articles**" - <http://openaudiovideo.moody.edu/OSAM/OSAM/Video/wmv/Education/Courses-Blackboard/Video Files/BI-5528 Koehler Articles.wmv>

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or www.bible.org. These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars

The final resource that deserves mention here is **iTunes University**. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunesU from various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Duke, Yale, Covenant Theological Seminary, and others that may benefit in your studies or understanding of this course.

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