

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.

Moody Distance Learning

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

SF4403 Theological Ethics and Christian Life, 3 credit hours (in 8-week, online format)

Course Description

An integrative study investigating the connections between theological ethics, the Trinity, and the life and ongoing formation of believers. Focus placed on the development of a framework for ethics as a Christian task flowing from transformation in Christ by the Spirit.

Prerequisite: TH4401 Christian Anthropology and Hamartiology; can be taken concurrently.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course the learners should be able to:

1. **Recognize** the connection between theological ethics, the Trinity, and the Christian Life as essential for spiritual formation practice
2. **Explain** meanings from ethical domains that can be helpful for growing Christianly.
3. **Produce** an ethical-theological project highlighting the ongoing formation of the Christian and the obligation to be led by the Spirit.
4. **Reflect** on the benefits that ethical and theological domains contribute to spiritual formation practices.
5. **Evaluate** theological-ethics with those concepts originating from the readings and Scripture.
6. **Appraise** personal spiritual formation through study, writing, and participation.

Content Expectations

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.

Assignments

See the Syllabus page in the Blackboard course for general assignment instructions.

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading. **Class Participation** accounts for between **25% and 40% of final course grade**.

- a. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Unless otherwise directed, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CST). Then read and respond to **at least TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CST).
 - b. **Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
2. **ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be several projects in this course requiring skills learned that include work with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Specific assignment instructions are provided under the Assignments menu. Assignments are submitted through a link provided so they can be recorded as submitted through the Blackboard Grade Center. The assignments in the course are:

The following are *weekly* assignments:

- **JOURNALS (Weeks 1-8) ON FRAME'S THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:** Extract TWO "nuggets of truth" from one of the 11 chapters provided from Frame's book. Copy 'n paste the direct quote from Frame, using quotation marks, into the Blackboard journal. Then, write a 1-2 sentence reflection on the statement about how it should influence your spiritual walk. Include the chapter and page number where you found the quote.

Here is an example (you will do TWO of these for EACH chapter):

Ch. 3 - Pg. 11: "God's authority is his right to tell his creatures what they must do."

- **Reflection:** We must not balk at God's authority. He is our Creator; He has the right to expect our obedience.

>>Who is John M. Frame? [Read Bio](#)

>>WCF: Chapter 11 ("Sufficiency of Scripture") talks about the "WCF" - the Westminster Confession of Faith. [Learn more about the WCF.](#)

- **8-1 PROGRESSIVE ASSIGNMENT: ETHIC VIDEOS SUMMARY CHART:** For the next eight weeks, you will complete rows in the provided chart after viewing the YouTube video lectures by Dr. John Frame (transcripts are also provided). The chart should be filled out each week after the video is viewed and submitted so the instructor can review your assignment thus far. The completed chart is due in Week 8 with any revisions suggested by your instructor. (The rows to be filled out for that week are clearly marked on the chart in red.)

In weeks 3 & 8, there are TWO videos, so you should fill out two rows in the chart in those weeks. The purpose of the chart is to help you record some of the foundational ideas about Christian ethics as a reference tool for the future. The final assignment should be 6-8 pages long.

- **WEEKLY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON C.S. LEWIS' MERE CHRISTIANITY:** Students will answer a question each week relating to this classic work on ethics. Students are encouraged to respond reflectively by writing approximately 2 paragraphs (4 to 5 lines each).

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Then, students should respond to **TWO** other classmates' posts. In addition, the student may incorporate insights from other reading assignments when appropriate, using appropriate citations.

>>Who is C.S. Lewis? [Read Bio](#)

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Journal – Week 2 (#2) – After watching Plato's "The Allegory of the Caves," in a few sentences, reflect on its meaning. Why do you think you were asked to watch it in a course about ethics?

Assignment 3-1 Critique on Holmes (Chart) - The book is one of the greatest modern day readings on Christian philosophy. Holmes provides an overview on ethical decision-making. He challenges the reader to make ethical deliberation a necessary part of daily life and learning for the Christian. The book covers material not covered by others; it contains timeless principles for us to practice. Fill out the provided chart about Holmes, filling in the number of paragraphs specified in the table.

Assignment 7-1 Ethical Dilemma Paper - Write a **THREE-page double-spaced** case study that examines one of the ethical/theological subjects facing the church. The case study should be concise, unbiased, and provide two or three concluding questions to stimulate further conversation. Possible topics: legislating morality, human rights (e.g. refugee-immigration crisis, racism, abortion, human sexuality, infertility, adoption, combating evil, war, criminal justice, stewardship, human trafficking, and other subjects of interest). Consider all the idea from Holmes, Lewis & Frame for your paper.

The following structure should be used in your paper:

- Introduction to the Ethical Dilemma
- Biblical Absolutes and Guidelines for the Christian (Use Frame's Whole Law approach and/or Holmes' Chapter 6 and 14 for help)
- Ethical Perspectives that might position the topic differently (See Frame's triangle for help, or consult Holmes' Table of Content).
- Possible Solutions
- Questions for Ongoing Dialogue

Assignment 8-2 Three Applications Paper - This assignment is to encourage you to reflect upon what you have studied in this course. Provide three applications of concepts that were most influential and life-shaping from the readings. **Use one concept from the Frame readings or videos; one from Holmes; and, one from Lewis.** What did you reflect upon with each reading? How might you put into action these concepts, ideas, or truths? What corresponding Scriptures were the most meaningful for you? (Write approximately two paragraphs for each concept, for *no more than* a total of two pages double-spaced.)

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Class Participation (incl. 8 discussions)	25
Journals (9)	15
3-1 Critique on Holmes (Chart)	15
7-1 Ethical Dilemma Paper	15
8-1 Ethic Videos Summary Chart	15
8-2 Three Applications Paper	15
Total:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63 - 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%