

1-1-2004

CS 601 Christian Ethics

Wyndy Corbin

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Corbin, Wyndy, "CS 601 Christian Ethics" (2004). *Syllabi*. Book 1688.
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CS 601Ex1: Christian Ethics
Asbury Theological Seminary
Fall 2004

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Office Hours (on-line): TBD

Welcome:

We are ready for our journey as a learning community into CS601. This will be an exciting journey as we follow the syllabus which outlines where we are going and how we are going to get there. Please feel free throughout the course of the term to raise questions and pose suggestions for future consideration that will enhance the delivery of this course through ExL. You will play an important role in shaping this on-line version for future improvement. Thank you in advance for jumping in and making this a meaningful learning experience.

Office Hours:

On-line office hours: TBD

You can also contact me as needed at the telephone numbers listed or through email at wcorbin@ashland.edu.

ExL Contact Information:

For general questions regarding the ExL program, email
ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

For technical support, email ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

For library research support, contact Information Commons at
Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

For library loans, contact Dot James at Dot_James@asburyseminary.edu

Obtaining Library Materials and Reference Assistance

Email: [mailto:Ats_Reference@asburyseminary.edu
]Ats_Reference@asburyseminary.edu

Toll-Free Reference Help Line: 1-866-454-2733

ExL students are encouraged to make use of local libraries, if possible. However, library services are always available to students through Asbury's B. L. Fisher

Library. All requests for books and journal articles should be e-mailed to the Reference Desk ([mailto:ATS_Reference@asburyseminary.edu
]ATS_Reference@asburyseminary.edu). The Reference workers (Hannah, Robbie, and Nina) will also assist ExL students with reference requests, using various online databases, or doing research on a specific topic.

To request material from the B.L. Fisher Library, begin by searching the library catalog (for books available in the library) or one of the restricted journal databases available on the library's website ([

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/library>]www.asburyseminary.edu/library - choose "library catalog" or "restricted databases"). Then send an email to the reference desk citing the sources that you would like to request. If you need help searching the databases, do not hesitate to call (1-866-454-2733) or email the reference desk. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Please allow 5-10 business days for all requests to be filled. ExL students are billed for the cost of photocopies (5 cents per page); however, shipping via media rate is free. (Media rate normally takes 5 business days for shipping, but it can take two weeks to addresses in the West). Express mail services (prices vary according to weight) and scanning (10 cents per page in pdf format) are also available. Requests generally require 1-2 business days to be processed. Plan ahead and make your requests early enough to allow for shipping and processing!

Windows and Icons:

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and the professor, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The (Class Number) Office is for private correspondence between you and the professor. This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. Remember: None of the conversations carried on in this location are ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, chapel services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio Player.

Purpose:

To prepare students for ministry by training them to analyze and address the moral life from a Christian perspective. To enable ministers to equip their congregations for understanding moral responsibility and for practicing ministry with integrity. To assist in training ministers who will draw all persons, including those who are excluded by society, into the care and guidance of the community of faith under the Lordship of Christ. To assist in the training of ministers who will exemplify the Gospel-mandated holy life.

Objectives:

Students will be able:

To provide a biblical basis for the moral life.

To describe various historical and contemporary Christian interpretations of social and personal moral issues.

To use the basic vocabulary of ethical analysis.

To use basic tools of social analysis.

To explain the Wesleyan emphasis on the various dimensions of holiness, specifically the expectation for personal integrity, moral concern, and social responsibility.

To recognize and explain at a basic level: the needs, contexts, and insights of various cultural groups and marginalized communities in society and in the church (these may include, but are not limited to, particularity arising from ethnic, gender, class, and geographic locations).

To explain how responses to moral problems and moral integrity shape congregational life.

Texts: Boulton, Wayne G., Thomas D. Kennedy, and Allen Verhey, eds., *From Christ to the World: Introductory Readings in Christian Ethics* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).

Dayton, Donald W., *Discovering an Evangelical Heritage* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988).

Hollinger, Dennis, *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002).

Miles, Rebekah L., *The Pastor as Moral Guide* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999).

Selected readings on electronic reserve

Evaluation:

35% Take-Home Integrative Essay on weeks 1-6

35% Take-Home Case Study

30% Final Examination (short answer, 45 minutes)

Debit: For inadequate class participation and/or late or incomplete reading.

Grade Range: Work for CS601 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

A = (4.0) Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives

B = (3.0) Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

C = (2.0) Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives

D = (1.0) Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives

F = (0) Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

Participation: Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Reading Records will be collected on the last day of class. Failure to complete readings on time may result in a lowering of the final grade, as will poor attendance for class. Attendance will be taken. The deduction for low

participation and/or late or incomplete reading of assigned material will be up to 10% against the final grade (a full letter grade reduction).

Written Work: All written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Follow page limit requirements. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse. Papers are due in class on assigned date.

All written work must use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (male and female). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision.

Take-Home Integrative Essays (5 pages, typed, double-spaced) Three essay questions will require moral reflection on, and integration of, the various biblical and historical materials covered in weeks 1-6 (includes readings and discussion on Wesley and Dayton).

Final Examination (45 minutes in class) The examination is oriented toward objective knowledge of ethical theory and historic traditions.

Take-Home Case Study (5 pages, typed, double-spaced) Case Study will describe an issue in ministry and will require analysis from various moral and social perspectives.

Course Schedule:

September 7-11: Moral Foundations and Sociocultural Contexts: Introduction

September 13-18: Moral Foundations and Sociocultural Contexts: Continued

Readings:

Assigned Scriptures
Hollinger, pages 7-123

September 20-25: Making Moral Decisions

Readings:

Hollinger, pages 125-186
Miles, pages 1-59

September 27-October 2: Christ and Culture: The Historic Tradition

Readings:

Hollinger, pages 187-215
Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:
Augustine, pages 234-237
Thomas Aquinas, 109-118
Luther, 187-194
Schleitheim Confession, 285-287

Electronic Reserve:

Didache
Calvin, Civil Government

October 4-9: No Class

October 11-16: Christ and Culture: Justice, Pluralism, and Public Engagement

Readings:

Hollinger, pages 216-272

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Niebuhr, 241-247

Wolterstorff, 251-253

Kennedy, 436-442

Yoder, 91-101

Jordan, 442-445

King, 427-436

Boff and Boff, 474-482

Callahan, 270-279

October 18-23: Distinctives of a Wesleyan Moral Vision

Readings:

Electronic Reserve:

Wesley, Sermon CXX: Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity

Sermon XCII: The Danger of Riches

Thoughts Upon Slavery

Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions

Heitzenrater, The Imitatio Christi and the Great Commandment

October 25-30: The Church as a Moral Community

Readings:

Dayton, entire book

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Rasmussen, 311-315

November 1-6: The Church as a Moral Community: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

Readings:

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Ruether, 88-91

Gilligan, 172-176

Electronic Reserve:

Koch and Van Leeuwen, excerpt from After Eden, pp. 19-43

Volf, Exclusion and Embrace? Excerpt from ...

New readings on black and Hispanic issues

Ain't I a Woman?

Take-Home Integrative Essays Due

November 8-13: The Church as a Moral Community: Friendship, Sexuality, and Homosexuality

Readings:

Miles, 103-126

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Meilaender, 264-270

Harrison, 331-341

Electronic Reserve:

Hays, Homosexuality, excerpt from The Moral Vision of the New Testament,
379-406

Circuit Rider articles on homosexuality

November 15-20: Marriage, Family, and Aging

Readings:

Miles, 76-102

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Farley, 342-346

Smedes, 347-353

Electronic Reserve:

Lysaught, excerpt from Growing Old in Christ, 267-301

Van Leeuwen, excerpt from My Brother's Keeper, 189-208

November 22-27: Reading Week

November 29-December 4: Work, Environment, and Worship

Readings:

Miles, 60-75

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Pope John Paul, 468-473

May, 514-524

Berry, 524-528

Electronic Reserve:

Volf, excerpt from Work in the Spirit, 123-156

December 6-11: Conclusions, Take Home Case Study and Final Exam