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CD 610 / CO 620 Moral Development

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This course examines and calls the student to moral formation and judgment in relation to biological, cognitive and faith development, with special attention given to primary sources in Jean Piaget and Lawrence Kohlberg. Moral development perspectives are evaluated in relation to creation, sin, the nature of human beings, redemption, justice and nurture. Attention is given to correcting bias in developmental perspectives with respect toward better understanding diversity in gender and race.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Examine the human sciences enterprise from a Wesleyan theological perspective including the issues of epistemology, the naturalistic fallacy, and the claims for “truth.”
2. Discuss the interaction of biological, cognitive, affective, moral and faith components that contribute to moral development across the lifespan.
3. Articulate predominate moral development perspectives and consider their presuppositions and implications for moral judgment, religious education, and other dimensions of ministry.
4. Formulate questions and dialogue regarding the relationship of human development issues and the theological doctrines of creation, sin, the nature of human beings, redemption, and grace.
5. Distinguish between different conceptualizations of justice and relate these to biblical revelation.
6. Identify probably gender difference and racial differences in moral reasoning and their implications for ministry.
7. Reconstruct from your own experience, personal transitions and movements through stages of development with a view toward embracing the whole of God’s redemptive pattern.
8. Commit to ministry applications that are sensitive and responsive to the appropriate developmental level of the individuals in one’s target population.
9. Understand suffering and pain as important mechanisms for transformation and articulate a theology that accounts for and comprehends their significance.
REQUIRED READINGS


YOU CHOOSE 1:


ADDITIONAL READINGS (found in the Course E-Reserves on Moodle)

A. *Concepts and Theories of Human Development* by Richard Lerner (1986), Pages 244-292.

B. *Moral Development Foundations: Judeo/Christian Alternatives to Piaget/Kohlberg* by Donald M. Joy (1983), Chapters 1, 2 and 11.


D. *Moral Development and Reality: Beyond the Theories of Kohlberg and Hoffman* by John C. Gibbs, Chapter 4.

E. *In a Different Voice* by Carol Gilligan (1993), Introduction and Chapter 3.


G. *The Church as a Just and Redeeming Community* by Denny Wayman.