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CS 650 Tutorial In Christian Ethics

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Warning! Preliminary Syllabus
Books will be as stated: Other Elements Subject to Change

ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-FLORIDA
CS 650 : CHRISTIAN ETHICS 1 HR CREDIT
(CONTINUATION OF CS 601)

S p r i n g 2 0 0 5

Thursday 9:00 am - 11:400 am
(Class will meet for 3 hrs from April 21 – May 19)

Dr. Hugo Magallanes, Associate Professor
Office Number: 121
Office Phone: 407-482-7655
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00pm - 3:00pm or by appointment

Purpose of the course:

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).

Evaluation:

35 points Take-Home Integrative Essay on weeks 1—5
35 points Take-Home Case Study
30 points 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.

<i>A = 95-100 Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>	<i>D+ = 67-69 Minimal work</i>
<i>A- = 90-94 Far above average, fine work</i>	<i>D = 63-66 barely acceptable</i>
<i>B+ = 87-89 Above average for graduate work</i>	<i>D- = 60-62 for specific assignment</i>
<i>B = 83-86 Very good, average for graduate work</i>	<i>F = below 60 Failure.</i>
<i>B- = 80-82 Slightly below average for graduate work</i>	
<i>C+ = 77-79 Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>	
<i>C = 73-76 Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>	
<i>C- = 70-72 Meets requirements, but serious gaps</i>	

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 printed 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.

Research Paper: Students may choose a specific area to study in greater depth. Possible topic areas include: poverty, child or spouse abuse, AIDS, abortion, homelessness, mental retardation, substance abuse, racial discrimination, environmental issues, public education. Topics should be chosen early in the semester so that students can conduct research and reflect upon interweaving themes. The paper must reflect an approach to the problem that includes a specifically church-centered response. The body or notes of the paper should reflect a working knowledge of resources currently available in the community and church, as well as alternatives and improvements you might prefer. Consult with the professor in choosing your topic. 10-12 pages, due May 19.

Module #3: CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY IN THE VARIOUS SPHERES OF LIFE & SOCIETY

Week 11

April 21 Christian Responsibility and the Economy

Readings:

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:
H.R. Niebuhr, 195-203
Clement of Alexandria, 451-452
Calvin, 453- 454
Rauschenbusch, 455-462
Stackhouse, 303-310
R. Niebuhr, 463-467

Week 12

April 28 Christian Responsibility and Politics

Readings:

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:
Walzer, 411- 418
MLK, 427-435
Lebacqz, 254-259
Graham, 260-263

Week 13

May 5 Christian Responsibility and Medical Ethics

Readings:

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:
Callahan, 367-370
Hauerwas, 377-388
Verhey, 400-403
Meilaender, 404-406

Week 13

May 12 Conclusions

Readings:

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey
Ramsey, 212-214
Tillich, 248-250

Week 14

May 19 Final Paper

Research Paper due today May 19, 2004.