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CS 601 Christian Ethics

Hugo Magallanes

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

ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-FLORIDA

CS 601 : Christian Ethics 2 hrs credit

S p r i n g 2 0 0 5

Thursday 9:00 am - 11:400 am

(Class will meet for 3 hrs from Feb. 10 – April 14)

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).

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 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.

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

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.

Take-Home Integrative Essays (5 pages & double-spaced) Three essay questions will require moral reflection on, and integration of, the various biblical and historical materials covered in weeks 1—5 (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 & double-spaced) Case Study will describe an issue in ministry and will require analysis from various moral and social perspectives.

Module #1: FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Week 1

Feb. 10 Moral Foundations and Sociocultural Contexts: Introduction

Week 2

Feb. 17 Making Moral Decisions: Scripture

Readings:

Assigned Scriptures (class handout)

Hollinger, pages 7-186

Miles, pages 1-59

Week 3

Feb. 24 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

Week 4

March 3 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

Week 5**March 10 Distinctives of a Wesleyan Moral Vision****Readings:**

Dayton, entire book

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

Module #2: THE CHURCH AS MORAL COMMUNITY AND THE PASTOR AS MORAL GUIDE**Week 6****March 17 The Church as a Moral Community: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity****Readings:**

Boulton, Kennedy and Verhey:

Rasmussen, 311-315
 Ruether, 88-91
 Gilligan, 172-176

Electronic Reserve:

To be announced

Take-Home Integrative Essays Due TODAY!**Week 7****March 24 No class today! Spring Reading Week.****Week 8****March 31 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

Week 9**April 7 The Church as a Moral Community: 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

Week 10**April 14 The Church as a Moral Community: 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