

CHRISTIAN ETHICS, PH202-M
Philosophy [3 credits] — *Independent Study*
Christian Life College-Madison

I. INSTRUCTOR(s)

This course will utilize the video lectures of Dr. Scott B. Rae, currently a professor of Christian Ethics and dean of faculty at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, where he also serves as senior advisor to the president for university mission. The Lead Instructor for the course will oversee the student's progress. To register for this independent study class, please email the Lead Instructor at clcm@citychurchonline.org. Detailed program and course information is available via the website: <http://www.citychurchonline.org/clc>.

II. SCHEDULE

This is a self-directed course that students can take up to 16 weeks (a typical semester length) to complete. For those utilizing this class for a summer session, the course must be completed by the last day in August.

III. DESCRIPTION

This course aims to provide instruction in the basic principles of Christian Ethics and their application to the Christian life. The first part of the course will be concerned with general ethical concepts and issues. The second part will be concerned with the sources of Christian ethics and the distinctive character of those ethics. Attention will also be paid to degenerate forms of Christian ethics, the relation between conversion and grace to Christian ethics, and the application of ethical principles to particular situations.

IV. OBJECTIVES

1. Describe, compare, contrast, and apply the various ethical theories and concepts used in grounding and making ethical decisions and developing Christian character.
2. Develop a style of moral decision-making that enables one to respond to the issues of life with moral consistency, ethical accountability, and personal integrity.
3. Recognize the contemporary contexts in which Christians make ethical decisions and assess how those contexts can shape our thoughts and responses for good or ill.
4. Cultivate a Christian model for moral decision-making and character development that is biblically and theologically sound, ethically credible, and logically consistent.
5. To develop critical thinking skills in the search for truth about the good life.
6. Develop an understanding of the Christian faith as the true philosophy for our world and life views.
7. Execute creative, sympathetic, and faithful applications of Christian moral theology to a wide range of ethical quandaries.

V. TEXTBOOKS — Required: (Students are responsible for obtaining their books)

1. Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 4th edition 2018.
2. Pearcey, Nancy, *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions About Life & Sexuality*, Baker Books, 2019.

Recommended books (for your position paper):

1. Bell, Daniel M. Jr. *Just War as Christian Discipleship: Re-centering the Tradition in the Church rather than the State*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.
2. Blomberg, Craig L. *Christians in an Age of Wealth: A Biblical Theology of Stewardship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
3. Feinberg, John and Paul, *Ethics For A Brave New World, 2nd Edition*.

4. Gagnon, Robert A. J. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.
5. Hollinger, Dennis. *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.
6. Kilner, John F, ed. *Why the Church Need Bioethics: A Guide to Wise Engagement with Life's Challenges*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
7. Kostenberger, Andreas J., with David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation, 2nd ed.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
8. Satinover, Jeffrey. *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.
9. Stassen, Glen Harold, and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
10. Struthers, William M. *Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.
11. Wright, N. T. *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

VI. REQUIREMENTS

1. **Lecture Notes** – You are required to take notes on each of the lectures. These notes should only include the lecturer's main points, sub-points, and sub-sub-points. There is no need for any greater detail. All assignments must be double-spaced and completed in 12-point, Times New Roman font. A DVD of the lectures can be obtained by contacting the lead instructor via email.
2. **Reading** – The textbook must be read carefully and completely, and you will be required to report on the quantity of their reading. You must choose between the two other books and read one of them, as well.
3. **Book Report** - You will write a book report *Love Thy Body*. The reports should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. The book report should be a thoughtful, informed response, considering biblical, theological, and ethical principles and sound reasoning.
 - b. It should be 6-8 double-spaced, typed pages and should include a brief statement introducing the author and title of the book and communicating that the book has not only been read in its entirety but also read carefully and thoughtfully. If the book has not been read in this manner, communicate the true quantity and quality read.
 - c. Include the primary thesis, purpose, and description of the book, and the major ethical insights communicated by the book. What points are particularly helpful for applying Christian ethics?
 - d. Include ideas that changed or challenged your thinking. How and Why? What ideas are interesting, novel, or problematic?
 - e. In the conclusion, state the major strengths and weaknesses of the book; give a brief statement of recommendation and state why you would or would not recommend the book.
 - f. Generous interaction with the author and scripture is required for a satisfactory grade. Be sure to use citations when referring to both the textbook and scripture. All papers should be written in MLA style, double-spaced, in 12-point, Times New Roman font. For writing and citing help, see the MLA format site: <https://www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/mla-format/>
4. **Chapter Questions** – You will answer selected questions at the end of each chapter in the main textbook, *Moral Choices: an Introduction to Ethics*. Please be as brief as possible in your responses (a one-sentence response is preferable; one-word responses are not). Please include the complete question and question number from the textbook in your response. All assignments must be double-spaced and completed in 12-point, Times New Roman font.

5. **Ethics Position Paper** - Choose a current ethical issue on which to write an 8-10-page position paper. The recommended reading list above can be used to help determine and research a topic. Your paper should include: (1) the history of the issue and the state of the issue today (include a clear statement describing why this is a moral issue) and (2) a description of--and response to--opposing views. Finally, your paper should (3) include a clear and well-reasoned biblical response to the issue. All papers should be written in **MLA style**, double-spaced, in 12-point, Times New Roman font.

VII. GRADING	Percentage
Textbook Reading	10%
Lecture Notes	15%
Book Report	20%
Chapter Questions	25%
Ethics Position Paper	30%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

VIII. EXTENSIONS: There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when classwork is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become "F" thirty days after the semester ends.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from the program. This includes plagiarism, fabrication of research, and the facilitation of academic dishonesty

X. CREDIT

- A. Tuition is \$400 for three college credits. Fees are due on a schedule of ½ before the first class and the final ½ before the fourth class. Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount.

Successful completion of this course will result in 3 earned credits from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

- B. **Application Fee** – There is a one-time 'Registration and Application 'fee of \$25. This one-time fee must accompany every *first-time application* for enrollment.

Suggested Study Schedule (*follow along for best results in getting work done on time*)

Each week, please upload assignments **by Thursday at midnight** including the percentage of reading done.

Microsoft Word or Google documents only. All questions are from the "Chapter Review" subheading in your textbook. (*) *As your schedule permits, you could complete assignments faster, i.e. do two weeks in one week.*

NOTE: all work must be finished within a 16-week time frame. Late work will NOT be accepted.

Week One – Read Ch. 1. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 1 on Google Drive (classroom). - Answer questions from Chap. 1 — 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed. Purchase the selected book on which to write a book report by the end of the course.
Week Two – Read Ch. 2. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 3 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 2 — 4, 5, 11, 13, 17, 20, 21, 22. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed. Choose which book you want to write a book report on, and let the Lead Instructor know.
Week Three – Read Ch. 3. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 2 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 3 — 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed.
Week Four: Read Ch. 4. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 4 on Google Drive (classroom). Also, report on how much reading you completed. Assignment: briefly summarize the model for making moral decisions. (Email a Microsoft document using Times font 12 with your answer.
Week Five: Read Ch. 5. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 5 on Google Drive (classroom). - Answer questions from Chap. 5 — 2, 3, 4, 7, 8. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed. Email Lead Instructor on your chosen "position paper" topic.
Week Six: Read Ch. 6. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 6 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 6 — 1, 7, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed.
Week Seven: Read Ch. 7. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 7 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 7 — 1, 3, 6, 7, 14, 17, 18. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed.
Week Eight Read Ch. 8. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 8 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 8 — 2, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19. Also, report on how much reading you completed.
Week Nine: Read Ch. 9. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 9 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 9 — 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed.
Week Ten. Read Ch. 10. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 11 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 10 — 2, 3, 7, 10, 13. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed.

Week Eleven. Read Ch. 11. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 10 on Google Drive (classroom). Answer questions from Chap. 11 — 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed
Week Twelve. Read Ch. 12. NO video lecture this week. Answer questions from Chap. 12 — 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 & report on how much reading you completed
Week Thirteen: Read Ch. 13. Watch <i>Moral Choices</i> video lecture 12 on Google Drive (classroom). . Work on your papers. Answer questions from Chap. 13 — 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 22. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed.
Week Fourteen: Read Ch. 14. Work on your papers. Answer questions from Chap. 14 — 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17. Also, turn in your lecture notes & report on how much reading you completed
Week Fifteen: Read Ch. 15. Work on your papers. Answer questions from Chap. 15 — 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Also report on how much reading you completed.
Week Sixteen Read Ch. 16. Turn in your Position Paper & Book Report, including this final assignment. Answer questions from Chap. 16 — 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14. Also, report on how much reading you completed.
All work needs to be turned in no later than week 16. Late work after week 16 will receive NO points.
<i>Remember to email the Lead Instructor for any clarifications or issues that come up during your self-study course. Plan accordingly, if you are going out of town or are feeling ill, you can turn in work later.</i>

Questions or clarifications? Please email Lead instructor: clem@citychurchonline.org,
(or Lisa Quintana lquintana@citychurchonline.org)