



TH515 Theological Ethics

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Gary Deddo

Course description

This course describes the theological foundation for Christian ethics. We will identify and explore many modern approaches to ethics and see what difference a theological approach makes. We will also give extensive consideration to how pursuing moral faithfulness fits in with a life of discipleship to Jesus Christ and with the church's worship and witness in this present fallen age. A number of contemporary moral issues will be addressed and there will be opportunities for students to look into several of personal interest and relevance to the church and its member's relationship to the wider culture and world. Prerequisite: at least 30 units, including at least six units in Bible, six in theology, and three in ministry.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 145 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating in forums on the website, writing two short response papers, a final paper, and a final exam.

Required Reading Primary Texts (to be purchased)

Bloesch, Donald G. *Freedom for Obedience: Evangelical Ethics in Contemporary Times*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Pub, 2002. ISBN: 978-1-57910-932-5, \$37.00 (362 pp., 320 pp. of reading); the original edition published by Harper & Row in 1987 is also acceptable, and "very good" copies often cost less on bookfinder.com.

Tyra, Gary. *Pursuing Moral Faithfulness: Ethics and Christian Discipleship*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015. ISBN: [978-0-8308-2465-6](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9780830824656), \$27.00 (304 pp., 281 pp. of reading)

Please obtain these two textbooks before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Required "On Reserve" Reading of Assigned Articles and Chapters

About twenty articles or select chapters from books will be assigned and provided to students for exclusive use by those taking this course. Articles for **Elective Reading** from which the student will select, will also be provided.

Requirements and Assignments

1. **Read the lectures and handouts.** They will be posted each Monday for ten or eleven weeks. This will take about 3 hours per week. (Required)
2. **Read the textbooks and “On Reserve” articles/book chapters, both assigned and elective.** Reading totals about 975 pages. Students should allow about 5 to 6 hours each week to read the assigned textbooks and articles. (Required)
3. **Participate in online forum discussions.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with the instructor and other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. There will be two weekly online forum discussions. About 3 hours per week. (30% of the final grade.)
4. **Write Two Short Essays.** Write a three- to four-page essay (500-800 words) on two assigned articles. (20% of the final grade.)
5. **Write a Final Paper.** Write a paper of about 3000 words (11-12 pages) on a major ethical issue presenting a Christian theological ethical position and making comparisons and contrasts with divergent but prominent alternative understandings within churches and/or found in the surrounding social/cultural context. (30% of the final grade.)
6. **Final Exam.** A short-answer identification exam on terms and topics covered throughout the course. Open book and notes. (20% of the final grade.)