

ETHICS AND ETIQUETTE IN CONTEMPORARY MINISTRY

A Course for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Institute for Ministry Education
Spring 2015

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Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the discipline of Christian ethics and invite them to begin to exercise this discipline as they prepare for ministry. This course will explore foundations for Christian ethics, examine sample primary resources, review the history of Christian ethics, and identify current issues within the church.

Dates, Times, and Location:

Class sessions will be held on Saturdays, April 11, April 25, May 10 and May 24, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at St. James' Episcopal Church, 112 E Main Street, Titusville, PA 16341.

You may bring your lunch or purchase lunch at one of the nearby eateries.

Background Texts:

J. Philip Wogaman, *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction*, 2011.

J. Philip Wogaman, *Readings in Christian Ethics: A Historical Sourcebook*, 1996

Peter Gosnell, *The Ethical Vision of the Bible: Learning Good from Knowing God*, 2014

Required Texts:

Stephen Holmgren, *Ethics After Easter: The New Church's Teaching Series*, vol. 9, 2000

Harold T. Lewis, *Christian Social Witness: The New Church's Teaching Series*, vol. 10, 2001

Norman L. Geisler, *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues & Options (Second Edition)*, 2010

Nolan B. Harmon, *Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette (Second Revised Edition)*, 1987

Course Requirements:

Students in the course will be awarded a final grade of A (distinguished progress), B (normal progress), C (unacceptable progress—work must be revised and resubmitted), or F (failure—course must be repeated) based on the following criteria—

- Class participation: students are expected to attend all class sessions, complete all reading assignments, and to actively participate in class discussions (1/3 of grade).
- An oral presentation to be made in class engaging a contemporary ethical issue applying an explicated consistent moral theology (1/3 of grade).
- A reflection paper on a contemporary issue detailing 3 distinct possible positions based on studied approaches from the Christian ethical tradition (1/3 of grade).

Course Schedule:

April 11: Review of Basic Ethics

* read *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues & Options* before class

Roots and Traditions
Frameworks and Theories
Key Ethicists and Their Thoughts

April 25: Review of Christian Ethics

* read *Ethics After Easter* before class

Christological Assumptions
Biblical Foundations
Developing a Moral Theology

May 10: Applying Moral Theology to Ministry

* read *Christian Social Witness* and review *Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette* before class

Historic Christian Responses to Ethical Issues
Approaching Contemporary Issues as Ethical Concerns
Practical Ethical Questions in Ministry Today

May 24: Oral Presentations