

ET 2.1 - INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS

2006/07 – Semester Two - Possible Lecture Schedule

1	Tues 30 th Jan	Introductory – the study of ethics
2	Tues 6 th Feb	Questions of moral theology I Moral actions, authority, responsibility; conscience, duty, lesser evil
3	Tues 13 th Feb	Questions of moral theology II Natural law, 10 commandments, casuistry, moralism
4	Tues 20 th Feb	Questions of moral theology III The place of “law” in ethics
5	Tues 27 th Feb	Thinking about ethics – argument and debate Christian approaches to ethics Non-Christian approaches to ethics
6	Tues 6 th March	Martin Hallett from <i>True Freedom Trust</i> on Ethical and Pastoral Issues associated with Homosexuality
7	Tues 17 th March	Lying, gambling, birth control, capital punishment, Frame-Kurtz Human equality Human rights
8	Tues 20 th March	Divorce and Remarriage
EASTER BREAK		
9	Tues 17 th April	Governments Ethics and evangelism; ethics and apologetics; influencing public policy
10	Tues 24 th April	Abortion Euthanasia
11	Tues 1 st May	Jason Roach on bio-ethics/cloning Wealth and poverty Work
	Wed 2nd May – 1300	Deadline for essays 1 and 2
12	Tues 8 th May	Crime and Punishment Animal Welfare
13	Tues 15 th May	Suffering Teaching ethics to Christians Q&A; review; exam prep.
	Wed 6th June – 1300	Deadline for essay 3 (N.B. If an extension is granted on this part of the assessment then the piece may well not be marked in time to be processed at the June assessment board. In that case it would be carried over to the assessment board of Feb 2008).

ET 2.1 – Introduction to Christian Ethics

Module Description – 2006/07

Code:	ET2.1	Title:	Introduction to Christian Ethics
Level:	2 – DipHE level	Study Area:	Theology & Church History
Credits:	15	ECTS:	7.5
		Lecturer(s):	David Field

Aims & Objectives:

The module aims to

- introduce a major discipline of Christian theology which will not previously have been studied systematically by many students;
 - begin to equip students for key aspects of Christian ministry, namely, the teaching of Biblical ethics and provision of “ethical” counsel to individuals;
 - develop in students both an understanding of the depth and complexity of many ethical issues and a confidence in Scripture sufficiency and authority in these matters;
 - give students the skills to formulate their own responses to ethical issues and to evaluate alternative responses.
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Threshold Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to demonstrate

- an introductory understanding of a range of ethical frameworks and methodologies;
 - the ability critically to appraise the ways in which theological and philosophical positions influence ethical decision making;
 - a critical awareness of how Christians have used Scripture in constructing ethical responses;
 - familiarity with Christian ethical responses to a number of leading contemporary ethical issues;
 - some ability to identify the key questions in dealing with ethical questions and to construct responses demonstrating internal coherence, an appropriate use of Scripture, analytical rigour and pastoral insight and sensitivity.
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Brief Module Content:

Overview of historically important and currently influential ethical concepts and schools of thought; the use of the Bible in formulating ethical responses as well as in setting ethical questions in a theological framework; major currents in Christian ethical thought. Examination of ethical method; overview of pressing contemporary ethical questions; in depth study of a range of particularly pressing and representative issues covering environmental, family, political, commercial, personal, medical and sexual ethics.

Assessment Package: 60% Essay(s) (max 3000 words)
40% Unseen exam. (2 hours)

Method of Delivery: Lectures, questions, scenarios, and discussion. Preparation of case studies.

Study Hours per Week: Class contact hours: 3 Other study hours: 6 **Total hours: 9**

Indicative Bibliography:

Atkinson, D. & Field, D. (eds.), *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology* (IVP, 1995)
Cessario, R., *Introduction to Moral Theology* (Catholic University of America, 2001)
Clyde Jones, D., *Biblical Christian Ethics* (Baker, 1994)
Davis, John J., *Evangelical Ethics* (P&R Publishing, rev. edn., 2004)
Hauerwas, S., & Wells, S., (eds), *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* (Blackwell, 2004)
Hollinger, D.P., *Choosing the Good* (Baker, 2002)
LaFollette, H., *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology* (Blackwells, 2nd edn. 2002)
O'Donovan, O., *Resurrection and Moral Order* (IVP, 1985)
Thomson, A., *Critical Reasoning in Ethics* (Routledge, 1999)
Vardy, P. & Grosch, P., *The Puzzle of Ethics* (Fount, 1999)

Category & Programme Restrictions:

Compulsory for DipHE, TPS and YCM

Prerequisites: OT1.1, NT1.1, CH1.1 & CD1.1 recommended

Version date: 11/11/2005

ET 2.1 – Introduction to Christian Ethics

Assessment – 2006-07

A) Essay / exegetical assignment(s) – max 3000 words – 60%

1) Give a biblical and theological appreciation and critique of the meta-ethics deployed / implied in ONE of the following:

- a) John Stott, *Issues Facing Christians Today* (4th ed., 2006)
- b) Michael Schluter & John Ashcroft eds., *Jubilee Manifesto* (2005)
- c) Christopher J. H. Wright, *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* (2004)

2) EITHER

- a) Mount a defence or refutation of the notion that some third-party coercive interventions in the voluntary economic exchanges of morally responsible property-holders are required by Christian teaching.

OR

- b) What should be done about the wages which global corporations pay their employees in developing countries?

3) Give biblical and theological guidelines on when and why an association with a sinner becomes culpable involvement with their sin.

Notes:

In your essay show familiarity with (but do NOT simply expound or critique) Bernard Häring's section "Complicity in the Sins of Others" in *The Law of Christ*, vol II, pp.494-517) (Westminster, MD: Newman Press, 1963/66). Copies of this section will be available in the Academic Office but *please* do not take a copy unless you know that you are going to attempt this essay.

Here are a few instances which are given to clarify the question but are NOT to be addressed singly as though that itself would constitute an answer to the question.

- buying a loaf of bread from an atheist baker;
- setting up a business with a Buddhist;
- attending the wedding of a Christian friend who is marrying a non-Christian;
- taking the Lord's Supper from a resurrection-denying minister;
- co-signing a letter to the *Times* along with Muslims who, with you, wish to maintain ideological freedom for "faith schools";
- putting a long-standing but unmarried couple to sleep in the same room when they visit you;
- continuing a conversation with your lesbian friends while they hold hands and kiss.

Assessed work on numbers 1) and 2) above is to be submitted by **1300 on Wednesday 2nd May 2007**.

Assessed work on number 3) above is to be submitted by **1300 on Wednesday 6th June 2007**.

B) Two hour unseen end of semester exam - 40%

Work outside of class (78hrs)

1. Read over the notes for the last week and think about them – **13 hrs**
2. Read around:
 - a. Poythress *Symphonic Theology* and/or Frame's *Doctrine of the Knowledge of God* with the essays on these on Acorn
 - b. Couple of introductory ethics texts – Hollinger, Fagothey, Cessario, Clyde Jones (or listen to his lectures – see below), FRAME, O'Donovan. (Personally, I wouldn't bother with Grenz, Hill, or Geisler – even though they are popular with some.)
 - c. OR – if you're not a reader, then listen to either or both of these ethics lectures series – they are SUPERB:

Ronald Nash - <http://www.biblicaltraining.org/index.php?page=leader>
David Clyde Jones - <http://www.covenantseminary.edu/worldwide/en/ST360/ST360.asp>
(full transcripts available too)
 - d. Go play on some of the websites listed below.
 - e. Look at the seminar papers from last year - <http://acorn.oakhill.ac.uk/bin/view.pl/Study/EthicsSemPapers2point1>

25 hrs

3. Work on assignments – **40 hrs**

See next page for an aid to this

Outside-of-class work diary

1	28	55
2	29	56
3	30	57
4	31	58
5	32	59
6	33	60
7	34	61
8	35	62
9	36	63
10	37	64
11	38	65
12	39	66
13	40	67
14	41	68
15	42	69
16	43	70
17	44	71
18	45	72
19	46	73
20	47	74
21	48	75
22	49	76
23	50	77
24	51	78
25	52	
26	53	
27	54	

Selected books and websites worth a look

Atkinson, David - *Pastoral Ethics*, Lynx, 1994

*Atkinson, David and Field, David H., eds. - *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*, IVP, 1995

*Bahnsen, Greg - *Theonomy in Christian Ethics*, P&R, (2nd edn.) 1984

Bahnsen, Greg - *By This Standard*, ICE, 1985

Bahnsen, Greg, *Always Ready: Directions for Defending the Christian Faith* P&R, 1996

Biggar, Nigel - *Good Life - Reflections on what we value today*, SPCK, 1997

Blamires, Harry - *The Post-Christian Mind*, Vine, 1999

Boulton, Wayne G. et al, (eds), *From Christ to the World*, Eerdmans, 1994

Cessario, Romanus - *Introduction to Moral Theology*, CUA, 2001

Cook, David - *Dilemmas of Life*, IVP, 1990

Cook, David - *The Moral Maze*, SPCK, 1983

Davis, John Jefferson - *Issues facing the Church today*, P&R, (rev. ed.) 2004

DeMar, Gary, *Myths, Lies and Half-Truths* American Vision, 2004

*Fagothey, Austin – *Right and Reason*, TAN, (2nd edn.) 1959

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### JOHN FRAME

John Frame's material is far better than anything I can offer. If you can stomach the fact that you've already paid good money for ET 2.1, feel free to stay away and carefully work through Frame's *Doctrine of the Knowledge of God, Doctrine of the Christian Life, Pastoral and Social Ethics Outline*. I'm hoping that his two-volume work on Ethics (see e) below) will be out in time to use as a textbook for ET2.1 2007/08. Which is no use to you!

- a) introduction to his pastoral and social ethics lecture course, Spring 2005, with extensive bibliography:  
[http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh\\_frame/Frame.Ethics2005.PastoralandSocialEthicsSpring2005.pdf](http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/Frame.Ethics2005.PastoralandSocialEthicsSpring2005.pdf)
- b) a 2005 version of parts 1 and 2 of that course:  
[http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh\\_frame/Frame.Ethics2005.PastoralandSocialEthics.pdf](http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/Frame.Ethics2005.PastoralandSocialEthics.pdf)
- c) the 2001 version of parts 3, 4, and 5 of that course:  
[http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh\\_frame/TH.Frame.Ethics.3.pdf](http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/TH.Frame.Ethics.3.pdf)  
[http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh\\_frame/TH.Frame.Ethics.4.pdf](http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/TH.Frame.Ethics.4.pdf)  
[http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh\\_frame/TH.Frame.Ethics.5.pdf](http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/TH.Frame.Ethics.5.pdf)
- d) a study guide for that course:  
[http://thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh\\_frame/Frame.Ethics2005.PastoralandSocialEthicsStudyGuide.doc](http://thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/Frame.Ethics2005.PastoralandSocialEthicsStudyGuide.doc)
- e) 797pp Word version of his forthcoming *Doctrine of the Christian Life* used to be online along with a study guide. I think most of the component parts are here:  
[http://thirdmill.org/magazine/search.asp/keyword/joh\\_frame/category/magazine/site/iiim/searchtype/articles](http://thirdmill.org/magazine/search.asp/keyword/joh_frame/category/magazine/site/iiim/searchtype/articles)  
Or here: <http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/ethics.html> (along with a lot of not-so-good-stuff!)

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Geisler, Norman - *Christian Ethics*, Baker, 1989

Gill, Robin (ed), - *Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, 2000

Grenz, Stanley - *The Moral Quest*, Apollos, 1997

Grove Ethical Booklets

Hauerwas, S., & Wells, S., (eds), *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* Blackwell, 2004

Häring, Bernard - *The Law of Christ*, (3 vols) Newman, 1965-66

Hays, Richard - *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* T&T Clark, 1996

Henry, Carl P., *Christian Personal Ethics*, Baker, 1957

Hill, Michael - *The How and Why of Love*, Matthias Media, 2002

Holmes, Arthur, *Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions*, IVP, 1984

*Hollinger, Dennis P., *Choosing the Good*, Baker, 2002

Jacobs, Jonathan – *Dimensions of Moral Theory*, Blackwell, 2002

*Jones, David Clyde - *Biblical Christian Ethics*, Baker, 1994

Jordan, James, *Through New Eyes* Wolgemuth and Hyatt, 1988
 Kirk, Kenneth E., *Conscience and its Problems*, Longmans, Green and Co., 1927
 LaFollette, Hugh (ed) – *Ethics in Practice, An Anthology*, Blackwells, (2nd edn.) 2002
 Leithart, Peter J. – *Against Christianity*, Canon Press, 2003
 Mortimer, R.C., - *The Elements of Moral Theology*, A&C Black, 1947
 *Nash, Ronald – *Christian Ethics, Lecture Course* – at Reformed Theological Seminary – link lost
 *O’ Donovan, Oliver - *Resurrection and Moral Order*, Apollos, (2nd edn.) 1994
 O’Donovan, Oliver – *The Desire of the Nations* CUP, 1996
 Rayburn, Robert – Christian Ethics - <http://www.faihtacoma.org/sermons/Ethics/ethics.htm>
 Robinson, Dave & Garratt, Chris – *Introducing Ethics*, 1997
 Schluter, Michael, ed. - *Christianity in a Changing World*, Marshall Pickering, 2000
 Schluter, Michael, and Ashcroft, John – *Jubilee Manifesto*, IVP, 2005
 Shields, Norman - *Eager to do what is Good*, Christian Focus, 2001
 Singer, Peter – *Practical Ethics*, 1993
 *Stott, John - *New Issues Facing Christians Today*, Marshall Pickering, 2006
 Thompson, Mel – *Teach Yourself Ethics*, 2000
 Thomson, Anne - *Critical Reasoning in Ethics*, Routledge, 1999
 Vardy, Peter & Grosch, Paul - *The Puzzle of Ethics*, Fount, 1999
 Lewis Vaughn – *The Power of Critical Thinking*, OUP, 2005
 Waller, Bruce – *Consider Ethics*, Pearson, 2005
 Walton, Douglas - *Informal Logic*, CUP, 1987
 Warnock, Mary – *An Intelligent Person’s Guide to Ethics*, 2001
 Wells, David - *Losing our Virtue*, IVP, 1998
 Weston, Anthony – *A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox* – OUP, 2001
 Wright, Christopher J.H. – *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* – IVP, 2004

http://resources.theology.ox.ac.uk/read2.phtml?school_code=&paper_num=&option_letter=&paper_ID=FH13
 - the faculty bibliography for Oxford Uni’s *Christian Moral Reasoning* paper
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/ScriptureEthicsBib.htm> - another very full, well-ordered bibliography
<http://www.christian.org.uk/home.htm> - Christian Institute
<http://www.bmei.org/> - Reformed medical ethics
<http://www.bethinking.org> - UCCF apologetics +
<http://www.cmf.org.uk/> - CMF – brilliant stuff
http://www.jubilee-centre.org/cambridge_papers/index.php - Cambridge Papers available to download
<http://ethics.acusd.edu/index.asp> - Ethics resource page
<http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/> - Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html> - Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy
<http://www-personal.monash.edu.au/~dey/phil/ethics.htm> - lots of relevant links
<http://www.leaderu.com/> - huge and varied resource
<http://www.lewrockwell.com> – essays on social and political ethics – subscribe for daily updates
<http://www.mises.org> – essays on economic ethics – subscribe for daily updates
<http://www.spuc.org.uk/> - subscribe for email bulletins
<http://acton.org> – social, political, economic, environmental
<http://www.lifeuk.org/> - LIFE – medical, sexual ethics
<http://www.iea.org.uk/> - social, political, public policy
<http://www.adamsmith.org/> - social, political, economic – email bulletins
<http://www.civitas.org.uk/> - health, welfare, education public policy site

If ever you want a book which is not in the library ...