

# Christian Ethics and Moral Theology

Fall 2008

Instructor: Deacon Erin Giles, M.Div. & M.A. in Christian Ethics

Available for consultation via email or phone:

[erinlgiles@hotmail.com](mailto:erinlgiles@hotmail.com)

(209)390-4352 (I have unlimited long distance and will be glad to return calls.)

(Please allow at least 48 hours for returning email and be aware that I may need to make a phone appointment if I am not immediately available when you call.)

## Course Objectives

After completing this course successfully, students will be able to:

- Identify ethical problems
- Identify and apply relevant ethical methods for resolving ethical dilemmas
  - \*The primary standard for Christian ethics is Holy Scripture as interpreted by Holy Tradition.
- Teach others how to think ethically and lead moral lives

## Canonical Standards for Ethics and Moral Theology

Candidates for Holy Orders will be able to discuss:

- The sources of Christian ethics and moral theology, including the Holy Scriptures, Christian tradition and experience.
- Major ethical theories and major figures in the field.
- The nature, focus and justification for "the good" including the relation between God, Christ and the good.
- The nature of moral agency, including the understanding of such issues as freedom, responsibility, obligation, virtue, conscience and character.
- Moral judgment, including the knowledge of the relation between religious belief and moral judgment.
- The place of spirituality in Anglican teaching about the moral life.

- Major moral issues facing Christians, past and present, and how Anglican moral theologians have resolved or may resolve them.

## Course Texts:

- **Ethics After Easter** by Stephen Holmgren
- **Sources of Christian Ethics** by Servais Pinckaers
- **In My Father's House: The Years Before The Hiding Place**  
by Corrie Ten Boom

Two books of each student's choice from the attached list

- **Texts in Anglican & Classical Christian Moral Theology**

Shorter Course Readings as Assigned (Readings will be made available by handout or on line as specified)

Note: The reading for this course is primarily entire books and is heavily tilted towards the first half of the semester. This is intentional! It is to ensure that you have adequate time to research your final papers and to prepare for the oral final exam.

## Course Grading:

Grades are based on a 100 point scale. There are 10 total assignments, 8 written and 2 oral with point totals given below.

### Written Assignments: 44 points total

**# 1 Personal Ethics Reflection Paper** *See document entitled "Personal Ethics Reflection Paper" for instructions*

- *2 pages worth 4 points*
- *Due via email by Sept. 20th at 10 p.m*

**#2 Reconstruction of Chapter One of Stephen Carter's Integrity** *Text will be distributed via course reader. See document entitled "Reconstruction" for instructions.*

- *2 pages worth 4 points*

- *Due via email by October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m.*

**#3 Critique of the Lambeth Conference Report (1930)** *Text will be distributed via course reader. See document entitled “Critique” for instructions.*

- *4 pages worth 8 points*
- *Due via email by November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m*

**#4 Case Study** *See document entitled “Case Study” for instructions.*

- *10 pages worth 20 points*
- *Due via email by December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m.*

**4 Book Evaluations** *See document entitled “Book Evaluations”*

- *2 pages each worth 8 points*

**BE#1 Ethics after Easter** *Due via email by Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 p.m.*

**BE#2 Sources of Christian Ethics - Part I Only** *Due via email by October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m.*

**BE#3 First Elective Text** *Due via email by November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m.*

**BE#4 Second Elective Text &** *Due via email by December 12<sup>th</sup> at noon*

**Oral Assignments: 44 points total**

**#1 Case Study Presentation** *See document entitled “Case Study” for instructions.*

- *10 minutes worth 20 points*
- *Due in class on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>*

**#2 Oral Final Exam via telephone** *See document entitled “Oral Final Exam” for instructions*

- *12 minutes worth 24 points*
- *To be scheduled with instructor between Dec. 8-11*

**Class Participation:** *Class participation points are based on attendance (no excused absences) and demonstration of preparedness for discussion through the student's ability to ask and answer questions appropriately.*

- *12 points based on 3 per class session plus 1 per weekend*

## **Course Standards**

Attendance and on-time submission of all work are expected. Papers are expected to be submitted via email in a Word format. After the book evaluations have been reviewed by the instructor and requested revisions have been made, book evaluations of the two elective texts will be shared with other members of the class so that all students will have a mini-library of classical and Anglican moral theology texts to read.

All papers should be written in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins on all sides, double spaced. Footnotes are preferred to end-notes. Please include page numbers.

Students are encouraged to visit [www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies](http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies) for guidance regarding such matters as academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete work, extensions, etc.

In addition, with regard to academic writing, and especially for guidance in avoiding plagiarism, there are some excellent resources on the internet. Go to <http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu/>

## Weekend One: How Then Shall We Live? Introducing Christian Ethics & Moral Theology

Session	Topic	Written Assignment Due Prior to Arrival	Reading Due
Friday Evening	What is Christian Ethics & Moral Theology?	Written Assignments #1 & BE#1	<u>Ethics After Easter</u> by Stephen Holmgren (Pages 1-193)
Saturday Morning	Sources of Christian Moral Theology (Scripture and Tradition)		<u>Sources of Christian Ethics</u> by Servais Pinckaers (Pages 1-190)
Saturday Afternoon	Approaches to Christian Moral Theology : General Overview (Using Our Reason to Bring the Sources to Bear on Particular Situations)		

## Weekend Two: What Have Christians Taught About the Good Life?: The History of Christian Moral Theology, with a particular focus on Anglican Ethics

Session	Topic	Written Assignment Due Prior to Arrival	Reading Due
Friday Evening	Approaches to Christian Ethics (Virtue Ethics: Christian Character)	Written Assignments # 2 & BE#2	<u>Sources of Christian Ethics</u> by Servais Pinckaers (Pages 191-326)
Saturday Morning	Approaches to Christian Ethics Cont'd. (Natural Law)		First Elective Book from Classical & Anglican Authors List
Saturday Afternoon	Anglican Moral Theology (Practical Divinity)		Readings from <u>The Anglican Moral Choice</u> ed. By Paul Elmen

## Weekend Three: Using What We've Learned: Becoming the Body of Christ through Practical Divinity in Community

Session	Topic	Written Assignment Due	Reading Due
Friday Evening	Matters of Life and Death  Oral Assignment #1	Written Assignment #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lambeth Conference Report (1930)</li> <li>• <u>In My Father's House: The Years Before The Hiding Place</u> by Corrie Ten Boom (Pages 1-192)</li> </ul>
Saturday Morning	Human Relations  Oral Assignment #1	BE#3	<u>Sources of Christian Ethics</u> by Servais Pinckaers (Pages 327-456)
Saturday Afternoon	Social Relations  Oral Assignment #1		

