

SYLLABUS
Rev. 5/14/2020

Course: RP341/TH341 Ethics (Blended)
Credit: 2 Semester Hrs.
Semester: Cycle 1, 2020 (July 13-15) w/pre-work during July 6-12
Mtg Time: Monday, July 13 – Wednesday, July 15, 8:00am-1:00pm
Location: East Ed 118
Professor: Dr. Michel Dodds, (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu
(913) 638-3291 (cell)

I. DESCRIPTION

A general investigation into the major issues in ethics both on the individual and societal levels. Emphasis is upon a Christian critique of these issues in order to establish a proper biblical perspective of ethical inquiry.

** This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students can take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.*

II. OBJECTIVES**A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Understand basic components of models for ethics and value.
Program Objective 1 / Assignments: A, B, C1
2. Recognize the importance of consistency in valuing.
Program Objective 2 / Assignments: A, B, C3
3. Examine the basis and content of Biblical ethics.
Program Objective 3 / Assignments: A, B, C1
4. Examine your own ethics models.
Program Objective 1 / Assignments: A, B, C1

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Develop a grid for assessing ethics models.
Program Objective 1 / Assignments: A, B, C1
2. Critically assess ethics models based on worldview bases.
Program Objective 4 / Assignments: A, B, C2
3. Practice ethical decision making.
Program Objective 4 / Assignments: A, B, C3

III. REQUIRED MATERIALS**A. Bible**

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or

version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. Other Textbooks

(ABW) Christopher Cone, *Applied Biblical Worldview: Essays in Christian Ethics*, Exegetica Publishing, 2016, ISBN 9780976593096. \$19.00

(RD) Christopher Cone, *Redacted Dominionism: A Biblical Approach to Grounding Environmental Responsibility*, Wipf & Stock, 2012, ISBN 9781620321591. \$14.80

(BBSE) Steve Wilkens, *Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics*, IVP, 2011, ISBN 9780830839360. \$15.91

IV. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE (1000 points)

A. Attendance and Participation (450 points)

All students must attend class. Campus students are required to attend the class in person at the scheduled time and location. Online students are required to attend the class by viewing or listening to the class recording within 24 hours of its posting in the online classroom. Points for attendance will accrue based on successful completion, as listed below.

All students must participate in classroom discussion through the online classroom as assigned in the Course Schedule. This discussion is part of the contact time for the course, and will include answering the discussion questions (KLQ's, identified in the lectures) with at least a 200-word response per question, *interacting with responses of other students and, and interacting with the professor*. Points for participation will accrue based on successful completion, as listed below.

B. Reading and Reading Accountability (300 points)

Students will complete all assigned reading as listed in the Course Schedule and will write a book report (at least 1000 words) on each of the four readings. Reports should be reflective and should include two elements: (1) an objective summary of the reading, and (2) justified critiques or affirmations of the ideas presented in the reading.

C. Research and Writing (250 points)

Students will complete one research paper of at least 2000 words on any of the following topics:

1. Paper #1: A paper outlining and describing a Biblical model or grid for ethics. The paper should include only Biblical citations, meaning that all statements should be justified Biblically, and that no other sources should be used to construct this paper. This Biblical Ethics Grid should include and explain the basis for Biblical ethics, the content, and some specific examples in application (case studies).

2. Paper #2: A paper critiquing a non-biblical ethics model through the lens of a Biblical one. This paper should objectively identify core components (bases, content, and application) of the ethics model being critiqued, and should offer a compelling and well-justified critique from a Biblical perspective. At least 6-10 sources should be used and cited.
3. Paper #3: A case study dealing with a contemporary issue, through the lens of two competing ethics models – a Biblical model and any non-biblical model. This case study is designed to provide practice in assessment and ethics decision making. At least 6-10 sources should be used and cited.

D. Quizzes and Projects

There are no quizzes or projects required for this class.

E. Exams

There are no exams required for this class.

F. Grading Rubric

<i>Attendance and Participation</i>	<i>450 points</i>
<i>Reading and Reading Accountability</i>	<i>300 points</i>
<i>Research and Writing</i>	<i><u>250</u> points</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1000 points</i>

G. Assignment Notices

All assignments are to be submitted in the online classroom. No hard copies will be accepted.

All research papers must be submitted in Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director (dss@calvary.edu) of any condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

Plagiarism is defined as copying any information without proper citation, including taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. Assignments including plagiarized information will not be assigned any points, and further disciplinary action is possible.

V. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – July 6-12 – Pre-Work – Read BBSE and ABW (entire books)

Week 2 – July 13-19 – Class Meetings and Course Interaction

Module 1 – Basis and Framework for Ethics

Module 2 – Comparative Models I: Relativism, Egoism, Behaviorism, Evolutionary

Module 3 – Comparative Models II: Utilitarian, Kantian, Virtue, Narrative
Module 4 – Comparative Models III: Situational, Natural Law, Divine Command
Module 5 – Moral Issues I: Conduct, Life and Death
Module 6 – Moral Issues II: Sexuality, Parental, and Church
Module 7 – Moral Issues III: Environment
Module 8 – Considering Pluralism and the Future

Course Interaction – Answer KLQ's 1-2

Assignments Due July 19

Week 3 – July 20-26 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research

Course Interaction – Answer KLQ's 3-4

Reading Accountability – Write Book Reports on BBSE and ABW (2 Reports)

Research and Writing – Begin Paper

Assignments Due July 26

Week 4 – July 27-August 2 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research

Course Interaction – Answer KLQ's 5-6

Reading – Read Ephesians and Ecclesiastes

Reading Accountability – Write Book Report on Ephesians and Ecclesiastes (1 Report)

Research and Writing – Continue Writing Paper

Assignments Due August 2

Week 5 – August 3-August 10 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research

Course Interaction – Answer KLQ's 7-8

Reading – Read RD (entire book)

Reading Accountability – Write Book Report on RD (1 Report)

Research and Writing – Complete Paper

Assignments Due August 10