

Systematic Theology 7200 Christian Ethics Hudson, OH Campus Course Syllabus

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biblical perspectives on contemporary ethical issues facing the church and the minister: divorce, abortion, euthanasia, genetic control, sex, war, racism, ecology, personal lifestyle, and the church's responsibilities. This course will meet every Thursday evening from 6:30-9 PM Eastern Time, except on Thanksgiving, November 26. The course will begin on August 27, 2020, and the last session will be on December 10, 2020.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. To discuss various approaches to decision making in moral and non-moral areas. By the end of this part of the course students should have a strategy for decision making in moral issues and situations.
- B. To survey various contemporary issues that face the church and come to biblical answers to these questions. In regard to each issue, students will know the different arguments for positions held on each issue, and will decide on which position is the most attuned to Scripture and evangelical theology.
- C. To set forth the church's responsibility in a secular state on ethical issues.
- D. To encourage the student to action and further study on these matters.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. In this class there will be two required texts. They are:

John and Paul Feinberg, *Ethics For A Brave New World*
John Feinberg, ST 7200 Notebook (available electronically via e-mail)

There will be eleven different reading assignments in the course. All reading must be finished and reported with the final exam.

The assignments are as follows:

1. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 1.
2. Feinberg and Feinberg, chaps. 2-3.
3. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 4.
4. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 5.
5. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 6.
6. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 7-8.
7. Feinberg and Feinberg, chaps. 9-10.
8. Feinberg and Feinberg, chaps. 11-12.
9. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 13.
10. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 14.
11. Feinberg and Feinberg, chap. 15.

Please note that the class notebook gives the structural outline for the course. It is constructed to reflect the chapters and sections of the chapters in Feinberg and Feinberg. It will be your task to read those chapters and take notes (in the course notebook) in advance of class sessions on the various topics. That way, most of our class time can be spent discussing the various issues relating to the different topics.

B. Exams

There will be both a midterm and a final exam. Questions will be primarily essay in nature. Further details will be given the first day of class.

IV. COURSE GRADES

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following:

Reading = 2/10

Mid-term Exam = 4/10

Final Exam = 4/10

V. LIST OF POSSIBLE TOPICS

1. Christian Decision Making and Personal Integrity
2. Abortion
3. Euthanasia
4. Capital Punishment
5. Birth Control
6. Homosexuality
7. Artificial Insemination
8. *In Vitro* Fertilization
9. Frozen Embryos
10. Surrogate Motherhood
11. Cloning
12. Stem Cell Research
13. Genetic Counselling
14. Genetic Screening
15. Recombinant DNA
16. Gene Therapy/Splicing
17. Divorce/Remarriage
18. War
19. Christian and Secular State