

ST 7200: THEOLOGICAL ETHICS  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL  
Columbus Extension  
January 22-23; February 5-6; February 26-27; April 2-3  
INSTRUCTOR: DAVID LUY  
[dluy@tiu.edu](mailto:dluy@tiu.edu)

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/91811842833?pwd=STZ4U1QxWWRvMGhlY3VsUUwxME1HZz09>  
(calendar invites for google calendar are also available by request to the professor)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION (from TEDS catalog):

This course is an examination of how Christian ethics moves from biblical and systematic theology to moral theology and how theological commitments (e.g., theology proper, anthropology, Christology, soteriology, pneumatology, ecclesiology) structure and govern moral reflection. It explores the application of a robust, moral-theological framework to issues of contemporary personal, pastoral, and societal importance (such as personhood and human dignity, biomedical technologies, sexual ethics, and the pursuit of peace, justice, and reconciliation).<sup>1</sup>

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After taking this course, students should be able to

1. Discuss the complex ways in which theological commitments inform and give shape to moral reasoning.
2. Explain how to appropriate biblical texts as an authority for ethical decision-making in a responsible manner.
3. Identify the fundamental elements which give shape to the Christian moral imagination.
4. Differentiate between the major ‘types’ of ethical theory espoused within the history of moral philosophy.
5. Apply Christian moral commitments and principles to a wide assortment of ethical challenges encountered in today’s world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will:

---

<sup>1</sup>Students who feel they have covered these topics already in an earlier degree program are encouraged to refer to the TEDS guidelines for “Admission and Advanced Program Placement” located on page 186 of the 2012-2013 catalog.

1. Attend all classes and read all text assignments (10%).
2. Listen to the 6 sermons/ speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. enumerated below (10%).
3. Complete a case-study assignment/ presentation (30%)
4. Complete a mid-term (identification and multiple choice) (20%)
5. Complete a final exam (essay) (30%)

## COURSE FORMAT

In light of the COVID public health situation and in order to maximize pedagogical effectiveness, TEDS is complying with local guidelines regarding social distancing. Due to the nature of this class, it is being offered in a synchronous video conference format only. Class sessions will take place via zoom instead of in person.

Recorded lecture segments will be made available on the moodle course page before each of the four weekends. Please watch and take notes on this lecture material before attending the zoom session. Our time in class will emphasize engagement with the course material through discussion and dialogue. Students are expected to have video cameras turned on throughout the course session and should have their microphones muted, unless they are asking a question or addressing other members of the class.

Because the recorded lecture segments represent an additional workload requirement, our weekend class sessions will not typically last for the normal duration unless the technology fails and it becomes necessary for lecture material to be presented “live”. Because of the latter possibility, please do not schedule any commitments on Friday evening from 7-10 PM, or Saturday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. My goal in adopting this hybrid format is to avoid extremely long zoom sessions which are discouraged by specialists in online pedagogy.

## DUE DATES

- Mid-Term—February 15-20
- Case study assignment—April 23
- Reading Report and Listening Report—May 3
- Final Exam—May 3-7

## LATENESS POLICY

- Assignments that are submitted late will receive a deduction of 5 percentage points per day.
- Extensions within the semester will be granted to students dealing with extenuating and unanticipated circumstances.

- Per TEDS academic policy, all extensions beyond the Friday of finals week (December 13) will be processed through the Dean of Students' Office. Official extensions are also granted only in the case of extenuating and unanticipated circumstances.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

O'Donovan, Oliver. *Resurrection and Moral Order: An Outline for Evangelical Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994. ISBN-10: 0802806929; ISBN-13: 978-0802806925

Meilaender, Gilbert. *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013. ISBN-10: 0802867707; ISBN-13: 978-0802867704

Tanner, Kathryn. *Christianity and the New Spirit of Capitalism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019. ISBN-10: 0300219036; ISBN-13: 978-0300219036

West, Christopher. *Fill These Hearts: God, Sex, and the Universal Longing*. New York: Image Books, 2012. ISBN-10: 0307987132; ISBN-13: 978-0307987136

Waters, Brent. *Just Capitalism: A Christian Ethic of Economic Globalization*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016. ISBN-10: 0664234305; ISBN-13: 978-0664234300

(Other texts will also be provided online as PDFs)

#### REQUIRED LISTENING:

Listen to the following speeches and sermons of Martin Luther King, Jr.:

- "Rediscovering lost values" (*A Knock and Midnight*, Disk 1)
- "Acceptance Address for the Nobel Peace Prize" (*A Call to Conscience*, Disk 4)
- "Where do we go from here?" (*A Call to Conscience*, Disk 6)
- "I've been to the mountaintop" (*A Call to Conscience*, Disk 7)
- "A Knock at Midnight" (*A Knock at Midnight*, Disk 3)
- "Guidelines for a Constructive Church" (*A Knock at Midnight*, Disk 5)

Recordings are available on youtube, but also in King, Martin Luther, Clayborne Carson, Peter Holloran, and Kris Shepard. *Martin Luther King, Jr: The Essential Box Set : [the Landmark Speeches and Sermons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.]*. [United States]: Hachette Audio, 2010.

#### RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice. *Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing*

John and Paul Feinberg, *Ethics For A Brave New World*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

Mott, Stephen Charles. *Biblical Ethics and Social Change*

Kunhiyop, Samuel Waje. *African Christian Ethics*

Matz, Brian. *Introducing Protestant Social Ethics*

Wheeler, Sondra Ely. *The Minister As Moral Theologian: Ethical Dimensions of Pastoral Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. ISBN-10: 0801097843 ; ISBN-13: 978-0801097843

#### COURSE SCHEDULE:

### UNIT I: SURVEYING MORAL TERRAIN

#### **Topic 1**

Introduction and Orientation

#### **Topic 2**

Philosophical Ethics: Theories and Frameworks

*Reading:*

O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order*, chapters 1-3

#### **Topic 3**

Moral Theology: Sources, Structure and Center

*Reading:*

O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order*, chapters 4-6

#### **Topic 4**

Ends and Limits: Reflections on Human Flourishing

*Reading:*

O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order*, chapters 7-9

Meilaender, *Bioethics*, Introduction and Chapter 1

### UNIT II: LIFE AT THE MARGINS

#### **Topic 5**

Who is my Neighbor? Personhood and Abortion

*Reading:*

O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order*, chapters 10-11

Meilaender, *Bioethics*, Chapter 3

#### **Topic 6**

On Dying Well: Basic Issues

*Reading:*

O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order*, chapter 12

Meilaender, *Bioethics*, Chapter 6

**Topic 7**

On Dying Well: Specific Questions

*Reading:*

Meilaender, *Bioethics*, Chapters 7-8; and 12

UNIT III: FAMILY, SEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTION

**Topic 8**

Human Sexuality: Marriage, Family, Divorce and Remarriage

*Reading:*

West, Part I

EFCA resource and CRC Great Lakes Catechism (PDFs on moodle)

**Topic 9**

Human Sexuality: Homosexuality in Biblical Perspective

*Reading:*

Richard Hays essay (PDF on moodle)

West, Part II

**Topic 10**

Human Sexuality: Homosexuality in Theological and Cultural Perspective

*Reading:*

West, Part III

Tanner, chapters 1-2

**Topic 11**

Reproductive Technology

*Reading:*

Meilaender, *Bioethics*, Chapters 2 and 4

Tanner, chapters 3-4

UNIT III: CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS

**Topic 12**

Introduction to Social Ethics

*Reading:*

*Populorum progressio* (PDF on moodle)

Tanner, chapters 5-6

**Topic 13**

Globalization

*Reading:*

Waters, *Just Capitalism*, Part 1

**Topic 14**

Globalization and course wrap-up (pastor as moral theologian)

Waters, *Just Capitalism*, Part 2

Grading Scale: A (95-100%); A- (90-94%); B+ (88-89%); B (82-87%); B- (80-81%); C+ (78-79%); C (72-76%); C- (70-71%); D+ (68-69%); D (62-67%); D- (60-61%); F (0-59%).

DRAFT