

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Ethics & Society

TERM: Spring 2023-2024

PROFESSORS: AnneMarie Mingo

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students will reflect on the church and its relationship to society (locally, nationally, and globally). Students will use biblical and theological resources, along with insights from the social sciences, to analyze ethical issues related to cultural, economic, and social realities in which the church participates and in which God is at work.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

CS310 builds upon other courses in Bible, Church History, Theology, Field Education, and Contextual Analysis. The specific goal of CS310 is to think theologically (biblically, historically, and systematically) about contemporary social realities (social, economic, racial, and political).

Students who complete this course will:

1) Explore historical and contemporary Christian Ethics, through the study of key influencers of the field and current moral issues. 2) Observe the methodologies used by ethicists with a particular focus on the role of agency and action, the sources of norms, and the relation of those norms to social analysis. 3) Strengthen critical skills allowing students to respectfully engage and dialogue over challenging moral questions and issues. 4) Learn to make complex choices independently without expecting to receive “the answer,” by hearing the voices of others even if you do not agree with them and identifying what sources can be drawn from in constructing a moral argument, and articulating your own ethical position. 5) Understand how individual and collective practices shape daily lives. Students can also expect to develop critical thinking skills, which they will refine through written and oral assessments.

Key questions include: What do we mean by Christian ethics, and what are the philosophical and theological approaches to ethical reasoning that continue to be influential in grappling with social issues today? How have social realities shaped the church and its theology in past and present? How does the church seek to be faithful to God’s mission of reconciliation and renewal in local communities and in wider regional, national, and global contexts? How do leaders in Christian communities promote Christian ethical discernment and action in addressing social questions?

PREREQUISITES: CS110 and TH210.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Miguel De La Torre, *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margin* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2014), ISBN: 978-1626980754, \$34.49
- Martin Luther King, Jr., *Why We Can’t Wait* (1963, 1964) Any edition. References will come from the Signet Classics edition with an Afterword by Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., published in 2000, ISBN: 978-0451527530, \$8.49. [Note: An electronic version is available through the Barbour Library]
- Ellen Ott Marshall, *Introduction to Christian Ethics: Conflict, Faith, and Human Life* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), ISBN: 978-0664263447, \$23.49
- Traci C. West, *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women’s Lives Matter* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), ISBN: 978-0664229597, \$30.00

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Participate in in-person class sessions. Complete readings and course assignments. Submit papers.

ATTENDANCE: Required.