

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.

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TITLE:	Ethics & Society	TERM:	<u>Spring 2020-2021</u>
PROFESSORS:	Ron Cole-Turner	CREDIT HOURS:	<u>3</u>
REGISTRATION:	SECTIONS LIMITED TO: <u>8</u> See Spring Schedule for section times	UNLIMITED	<u> </u>
		NO AUDITORS	<u> X </u>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course equips students to reflect on the church and its relationship to its various locations, with a particular focus on national and global contexts and issues. Students will learn to use biblical and theological resources with insight from the social sciences to analyze contexts and to identify and explore ethical issues related to cultural, economic, and social structures in which the church participates in God's mission.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

CS310 builds upon other courses in Bible, Church History, Theology, Field Education, and in particular Contextual Analysis. The specific focus for CS310 is the integration and interaction of all these sources of theological insight (biblical, traditional, and contextual analysis) with today's contextual realities (social, economic, racial, and political), especially at the national and global levels. These questions will be explored: 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 national and global issues today? How do today's contextual realities shape the church and its theology in the past and today? How does the church seek to be faithful to God's mission of reconciliation and renewal in local communities and in the wider regional or national context? How do leaders in Christian communities promote Christian ethical discernment and action in addressing social contexts?

PREREQUISITES: CS110 and TH210.

ONLINE FORMAT:

All course activities and instruction are delivered online. Each student will register for the course by registering for one of the three sections, which meets synchronously during the assigned time in all thirteen weeks of the term. In addition, each student is required to participate weekly within the section in two asynchronous course components. The first involves one or two lectures recorded by the instructor, with a combined listening time of about 45 minutes. The second involves Forum Discussion posts, including interaction with the posts of other students.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Stephen Mott, *Biblical Ethics and Social Change*. Oxford University Press, 2011; ISBN: 978-0199739370 (\$41.95). *Note:* This book is available in an online version, which free to download and print for PTS students.
- Additional required readings (about 700 pages) will be provided at my.pts.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: Participate in synchronous sessions. Complete all readings and all online course components, such as Forum posts. Submit papers.

ATTENDANCE: Required.