



## **Christian Worldview and Ethics**

Institute for Biblical Studies (CRU)

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January 2020  
**SYLLABUS**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

January 27-31, 9:30a – 11:30a and 1:00p – 3:00p

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Ethics is the study of what we ought to do. The ability to discern right from wrong—and to act appropriately in light of that discernment—is essential for maintaining and modeling moral integrity as ministry leaders. This course will enhance your moral sensitivity by acquainting you with some of the fundamental issues involved in developing a biblically-shaped personal, ministerial, and social ethic. The Christian worldview will be analyzed and crucial apologetic questions regarding the goodness of God and the morality of the Bible will be evaluated and answered.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Deepen your motivation to know, love and worship the triune God and to reflect God's character as an image-bearer in your relationships.
2. Better understand how a distinctly Christian ethic emerges from a Christian Worldview
3. Better understand the ethics of serving as a missionary with Cru.
4. Develop a deeper desire to be faithful to the way and truth of Jesus in our personal, ecclesial and public decisions and practices.
5. Discover the importance of ethics for evangelism, discipleship, movement-launching, and cross-cultural mission.
6. Become more aware of how you and other Christians have approached ethics and moral formation.
7. Better understand the wide variety of factors that shape your ethical decision-making
8. Grow in your capacity to reason ethically from the Scriptures, including the use of the Old Testament for faithful Christian decision making.
9. Develop a biblical and compassionate response to contemporary ethical questions.

## TEXTBOOKS

### Books

- Joshua Chatraw and Karen Swallow, [\*Cultural Engagement: A Crash Course in Contemporary Issues\*](#) (Zondervan, 2019). Chapters 1-9, 12-14 (250pp)
- Jemar Tisby, [\*The Color of Compromise: The Truth of the American Church's Complicity in Racism\*](#) (Zondervan, 2019). (205pp)

### Videos:

- David Bennett, "[My Story](#)" and "[Can Christians support gay rights and Is gay marriage wrong?](#)" You are encouraged (not required) to read [\*A War of Loves: The Unexpected Story of a Gay Activist Discovering Jesus\*](#). Zondervan, 2018.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Attendance and Participation (20%)

You are responsible to regularly attend and participate in class discussions. The class time will be conducted seminar style, so active, prepared, and intentional student participation is necessary to maximize learning.

### 2. Reading (20%)

All reading is to be completed prior to our first class meeting on Jan 27. Reading

completed by Jan 31 will receive 90% credit. Reading completed by Feb 14 will receive 80% credit. A reading log is attached at the end of the syllabus.

### 3. **Ethics Project (40%)**

In consultation with the instructor, select **one (1)** major ethical issue from your own ministerial context and prepare a 8-10 page response.

- The first page will be an excellent summary of the question/issue.
- The next two pages will be a summary of the different perspectives on and responses to the issues that you encounter in your ministry context.
- The next five to seven pages (no more) will be a thoughtful response written so you could give it to someone in your ministry context as a summary and conversation starter for your interaction. This section must rely upon the authority of Scripture and summarize the gospel-centered response to the issue.

**DUE:** Reports are due **Feb 14**.

### 4. **Pre-Course Ethical Reflection (10%)**

Pre-Course Assignment: a reflection on the manner in which you make decisions (400-500 words). A student in your ministry comes to you and asks why it is wrong for them to cheat on an exam. They want to know what makes a choice right or wrong. After listening to your response they ask what makes jay-walking wrong (they have noted that many in your ministry do not wait for "walk" signs). What about smoking marijuana? It makes them happy. Why is that wrong? How do you respond? What makes a decision right or wrong? How do you know what to do when the Bible does not speak specifically to it? Consider:

- Do you do what makes you happy?
- Do you do what it is your duty to do?
- Do you do what you are divinely commanded to do?
- Do you do what brings the greatest good to the greatest number of people?

**DUE: Jan 27 (by 9:30 AM).**

### 5. **Daily Journal (10%)**

Daily journal describing how the class is shaping their understanding of ethics. The last journal entry (Friday) will describe how they would change their pre-course assignment. Submissions of 1-2 pages of thoughtful reflection are due by 9:30 AM each day of the class beginning on Tuesday.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Monday: Foundations of Ethical Decision Making; Ethical Dilemmas

Tuesday: Use of the Old Testament in Ethical Decision Making; Sexual Ethics (homosexuality, transgenderism)

Wednesday: Personal ethics and adiaphora (alcohol, marijuana, etc.); Money/Economics

Thursday: Justice; Ethnicity/race; Technology

Friday: Medical Technology; Missionary Ethics

## **GRADING**

94-100 A	74-79 C
92-93 A-	72-73 C-
90-91 B+	65-71 D
84-89 B	0-65 F
82-83 B-	
80-81 C+	

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Assignment Format:

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must meet the following criteria:

- 1 " margins on the left, right, top, and bottom
- Double-spaced
- 12 point font (Times New Roman or Arial)
- A cover page that contains the assignment title, class title, your name, and date
- Please upload your assignments to the Canvas platform in PDF format.

**Reading Log**  
**Please email to course instructor by 2/14/20**

Joshua Chatraw and Karen Swallow, [\*Cultural Engagement: A Crash Course in Contemporary Issues\*](#); Chapters 1-9, 12-14

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_ -Or- % completed by 2/14 \_\_\_\_\_

Jemar Tisby, [\*The Color of Compromise: The Truth of the American Church's Complicity in Racism\*](#)

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_ -Or- % completed by 2/14 \_\_\_\_\_

View: David Bennett, "[My Story](#)" and "[Can Christians support gay rights and Is gay marriage wrong?](#)"

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