

RELIGION 224
Christian Ethics
Robert Hall, Instructor
Work: 346-8470; Home: 326-7410
E-mail: hallro@mailcenter.campbell.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Religion 224 is a study of the Judeo-Christian heritage in the field of ethics with primary attention given to its Biblical and theological foundations. In addition, there will be an examination of how Christian Ethics bear upon contemporary moral issues. The student will be expected to engage in the process of researching the current views on the various ethical issues within society and be able to discuss the traditional church standing along with their personal view.

This course will be taught in harmony with the Campbell University Statement of Purpose found on pages 6-7 of the *Campbell University Bulletin* and linked to the Campbell University web site at www.campbell.edu/pdf/academics/catalog-2011-13-final.pdf

COURSE TEXTBOOK

Crook, *An Introduction to Christian Ethics*; Fifth Edition
New Oxford Annotated Bible (other types of Bibles need Instructor's approval)

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Prerequisites** Student should have successfully completed **Religion 125**
2. **Overall Learning Outcomes**

To become familiar with contemporary and classical moral theories

To focus attention on a Christian model of doing ethics

To see how Christian ethics functions with regards to specific moral issues

To consider Christian ethics within the context of personal faith

Students completing Religion 224 should be able to demonstrate competence in.

(Supported University General Education Competences identified in parentheses)

- a. Contemporary and classical moral theories (I, III, IV, V)
- b. Christian models of doing ethics (I, III, IV, V)
- c. Problem-solving for specific moral issues (I, III, IV, V)

These Campbell University General Education Competencies are supported by this course:

I. Reading: Textual and Non-Textual:

1. Students will be able to read competently in English from a variety of source types (e.g. mathematic, scientific, literary).

3. Students will be able to read with understanding, so as to be able to apply discipline methodologies and theories in the areas of Fine Arts, Humanities, Mathematics, and the Sciences.

4. While reading, students will be able to recognize logical and compositional structures of various disciplines

4.1. Students will be able to comprehend various linguistic, compositional elements and processes leading from a topic sentence to a conclusion.

4.2. Students will be able to comprehend conclusions based on numerical and graphed data.

4.4. Students will be able to read compositional elements and themes present in literature and the arts.

III. Critical Thinking: Inquiry, Analysis, and Solution

1. Students will be able to make discipline specific inquiries.

1.1. Students will be able to use a variety of discipline-specific methods to recognize the existence of a problem.

1.2. Students will be able to use the proper methodologies to form questions about a problem at hand, and the implications of the question.

2. Students will be able to solve a problem which has been discovered and defined.

2.1. Students will learn to form relevant and concrete questions concerning evidence of a problem.

2.2. Students will be able to analyze the evidence defining a problem.

2.3. Students will be able to construct well-supported, clearly articulated, and sustained arguments based on evidence.

3. Students will be able to reach a logical solution.

- 3.1. *Through asking the right questions, students will be able to eliminate false assessments and solutions.*
- 3.2. *Students will be able to recognize a true solution and articulate the reasons for making that recognition.*

IV. Communication: Verbal and Non-Verbal

1. *Students will learn to communicate verbally in written form.*
 - 1.1. *Students will be able to write an essay with a focused purpose.*
 - 1.2. *Students will be able to support the essay's purpose with a logical and organized sequence of ideas and evidence.*
 - 1.3. *Students will be able to use the proper level of diction for the subject and the audience of their essay.*
 - 1.4. *Students will be able to use proper documentation for their essay's discipline and the discipline's methodology.*
 - 1.5. *Students will learn to minimize errors in spelling.*
 - 1.6. *Students will learn the basic computer software applications which can aid in their essay's presentation.*

V. Clarity in Value Formation: Spiritual, Interpersonal, and Physical

1. *Students will learn the sources, purposes, and processes of American national and spiritual sensibilities.*
 - 1.2. *Students will learn the basic forms of Judeo-Christian ethics and ideals.*
 - 1.5. *Students will learn the rich diversity in worldviews created by differing theological, political, social and economic systems.*

3. Course Expectations

To attend class regularly

To read the assigned texts

To participate in class discussion

To display knowledge of the course's subject through tests, presentations, and composition.

4. **Blended Courses:** Students must keep in mind that this is a “Blended Course” which means some work will be done through the Blackboard System.
- Please note: "**Blended learning is a combination of classroom and online learning where online learning replaces *some* classroom instruction. Blended courses provide some of the conveniences of online courses without the complete loss of face-to-face contact. The majority of instruction will take place in the classroom.**"
 - **In order to achieve our goal of receiving the majority of the instruction in the classroom there will be an extra class session the first week of the semester.**
5. **Attendance:** Attend classes faithfully and take good notes on lectures and discussions. the tardy student is responsible for reporting his/her attendance to the instructor during the break or after class. Each student is encouraged to attend class since material covered in class is not necessarily in the textbook. University policy requires a student to attend 85% of class meetings. However, orders can make this requirement difficult. if a student is **deployed** during the term, he/she must contact the instructor **DIRECTLY** with a copy of the orders. If more absences occur than the policy allows, the University’s current policy will be enforced. Attendance issues will affect the student’s grade.

Students with documented disabilities who desire modifications or accommodations should contact the office of Student Support Services at 1-800-334-4111 or by visiting their local extended campus site academic coordinator.

6. **Examinations:** There will be four tests. . *All students are subject to the academic integrity and behavioral expectations of the University.*

Grading Policies

The following grading scale will be used:

A: 900-1000 points

B: 800-899 points

C: 700-799 points

D: 600-699 points

F: below 600 points

W: Withdrew (no penalty and does not count on a student's grade point average)

WF: Withdrew Failing -- (this is the same as an F. and will always be counted as an F and computed in a student's grade point average)

Point Values:

Tests 120 points each	Total 360
Projects 80 points each (3 projects due)	Total 240
Special Topic paper	Total 160
Discussion Board Responses 30 points each (8 responses)	Total 240
	Class Total 1000

Course Due Dates: All Course work is due prior to the next scheduled class session. For example: The project and test listed in week two must be completed prior to the first class of week three.

Incomplete Work: Instructors will issue grades of incomplete in conjunction with the Director of Distance Education, coordination and the guidelines are provided in the University Catalog.

Inclement Weather: Campbell University's policy is to remain in operation during periods of inclement weather. If extreme or emergency weather develops, the University will work through those situations as they develop. Distance Education courses will continue to run. Outages to the Blackboard server will be coordinated.

Turnitin.com: "Turnitin.com" is a web-based service that provides online reviews of written material to judge if it has been copied from another source. Turnitin.com is used to evaluate the possibility of a student plagiarizing or cheating on written material. The instructor may require students to submit written work in an electronic format for the purpose of utilizing the Turnitin.com service.

7. **Special Topic Paper:** Each student will prepare a Special Topic Paper on an Ethical Issue. The paper will consist of a topic selected from a list found in *Course Documents* and will contain the following: an introduction to the Ethical question, arguments for and against the Ethical question, the Christian attitude, the Biblical perspective, student's reflection in light of his/her own values, and a bibliography with footnotes. This will count 160 points towards the student's final grade.

8. **Course Projects:**

Ethical Issues in the Media Project: During an assigned week, the student will be making observations of ethical issues within media programming. A worksheet will be used which is found in *Course Documents*, a report will be given, and discussions will be made in class.

Internet Project: A worksheet in *Course Documents* will be used to research certain ethical issues within a Christian Denomination.

Parable Update Project: The student will have to rewrite the familiar parable of the Good Samaritan into a current context. Guidelines are found in *Course Documents*. Each of these projects will count as 80 points.

9. **Instructor's Assistance:** Available by appointment only. No calls after 9:00 p.m. unless it is an emergency.

10. **Mission Statement**

The mission of Campbell University is to graduate students with exemplary academic and professional skills who are prepared for purposeful lives and meaningful service. The University is informed and inspired by its Baptist heritage and three basic theological and biblical presuppositions: learning is appointed and conserved by God as essential to the fulfillment of human destiny; in Christ all things consist and find ultimate unity; and the Kingdom of God in this world is rooted and grounded in Christian community. The University embraces the conviction that there is no conflict between the life of faith and the life of inquiry.

To fulfill its mission, the University:

- I. presents a worldview informed by Christian principles and perspectives;
- II. affirms that truth is revelatory and transcendent as well as empirical and rational, and that all truth finds its unity in Jesus Christ;
- III. influences development of moral courage, social sensitivity, and ethical responsibility;
- IV. gathers a diverse community of learners;
- V. delivers academic instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and professional preparation at both undergraduate and graduate levels;
- VI. transfers to students the vast body of knowledge and values accumulated over the ages;
- VII. encourages students to think critically and creatively;
- VIII. fosters the development of intellectual vitality, physical wellness, and aesthetic sensibility;
- IX. forges a community of learning that is committed to the pursuit, discovery, and dissemination of knowledge;
- X. provides students with servant leadership opportunities;
- XI. cooperates with other educational institutions to expand learning opportunities for students;
- XII. offers service and other opportunities to the greater community through athletics, continuing education, cultural enrichment programming, and extended-campus education.

<http://www.campbell.edu/campus/glance/index.html> Website

<http://www.campbell.edu/content/75/catalog-09-11-final.pdf> Campbell Catalog, page 7 printed page, actual page 13