



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**Course: GE122 – Ethics & Culture**  
**Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Loseth**  
**Winter 2019**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
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### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

Our lives are constantly bombarded with moral and ethical dilemmas. Movies, music, and art are rife with these issues, and we constantly hear about the various debates that are taking place regarding various subjects. How then is anyone expected to navigate their way through the stormy seas of these issues?

This class is geared towards outlining the numerous issues that Christians face in everyday life. A strong emphasis will be put on the dilemmas that North American Christians are facing and how this is affecting the way Christianity now looks. An evaluation of varying ethical theories and issues will be looked at, as well as how the historic Christian faith has attempted to answer these problems.

### ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

*Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed, by Scott B. Rae (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018). **Approximately 360 pages.**

### ***THE BIG QUESTION***

*How do we as Christians consistently address the vast amount of ethical and moral dilemmas within our culture?*

### ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

- 1) The student will understand the role and importance of a Scriptural foundation for Christian ethics
- 2) The student will have a working knowledge of the ethical values and issues facing Canadian culture
- 3) The student will grow in their desire to live out a consistent Christ-like character
- 4) The student will be able to give biblically consistent answers in response to various ethical questions

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Textbook Reading and Book Report – 30%**

- Each student is expected to read the assigned portion of reading from their textbook. You do not need to interact with the text, but you will be required to write a **2 page** reflection of the book. Evaluate the points that you agree and disagree with, emphasizing the points that struck you as impactful. Do not simply rehash the book, but rather evaluate the points that stuck out to you. You will be required to give the books bibliographic information at the beginning of the report and remember to put the page number down when referring to a specific point from the book.
- Assigned portions:
  - Pages 11-347
  - Your choice of one of the five remaining chapters (they average 26 pages a chapter).

***Due: January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.***

### **John Q Assignment – 25%**

- The class will watch the movie “John Q”. It is important that the student keep ample notes about the movie, as they will be required to write a **3-page** paper that highlights their opinion about the following points:
  - What were John’s values?
  - Were John’s lies justifiable in the situation he was in? Support your point with Scriptural backing
  - Were the decisions made throughout the movie based off logic or emotion? How do you make important decisions?
  - Would you consider John to be a “good” man or a “bad” man? Why do you conclude that? How would culture label him?

***Due: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

### **Research Paper – 35%**

- This assignment is meant to give the student the opportunity to study a particular ethical topic in an in-depth manner. This topic must be a current ethical debate in our North American society, with a fair evaluation given to both sides of the debate. The following structure may be used:
  - Introduction to the issue
  - Support for position 1
  - Support for position 2
  - Your take on the issue
  - Conclusion

- The assignment must be **7 pages** in length, so use your space wisely! You are required to use 7 sources, with at least half of your sources coming from books or academic journals. Do your best to avoid blogs and other easily written articles (ex. Wikipedia), but feel free to use articles from legitimate websites (ex. Planned Parenthood). Remember to include plenty of Biblical support for your position in regards to the issue.

***Due January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

**Class Participation – 10%**

- There is an expectation that the student will participate in class discussion and debate. There will be plenty of opportunity for students to jump into the conversation to give their arguments and ask questions regarding the various topics, as well as the opportunity to participate in class assignments. Attentiveness and attendance factor into the mark as well.

***Due: Throughout Course***

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/19

**LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/19

**Reading: Approximately 360 pages**

**Writing: 12 pages**

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clark, David K. and Robert V. Rakestraw, eds. *Readings in Christian Ethics, vol. 1*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.
- Collins, Raymond F. *Divorce in the New Testament*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1992.
- Fortson III, S. Donald and Rollin G. Grams. *Unchanging Witness*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2016.
- Geisler, Norman. *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Ethics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.
- Gill, Robin, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Sexual Ethics: An Evangelical Perspective*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990.
- Holmes, Arthur F. *War and Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1975.
- Mahaney, C.J., ed. *Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.
- Sider, Ronald J., ed. *The Early Church on Killing*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Smedes, Lewis B. *Mere Morality*. Grand Rapids, MI: 1983.