



Nipawin Bible College
CM1023 Ethics
Winter 2024
3 Credit Hours
Mr. Richard Friedt
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Decision-making in a post-Christian era is becoming more and more complex. This course teaches a Christian approach and perspective to making ethical decisions with confidence. An answer can be found to the most challenging of circumstances—using Biblical principles and precedents as well as the guiding of the Holy Spirit.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (a translation, *not a paraphrase*).

Copan, Paul, and Robertson McQuilkin. *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics: Walking in the Way of Wisdom*. Westmont: IVP Academic, 2013.

THE BIG QUESTION

How does a Christian in 2024 make decisions regarding right and wrong when the surrounding culture has no standard by which to make ethical judgments? How do we as Christians set our moral compass to the Word of God so that our lives are marked by an unwavering commitment to His ways?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Know the major biblical passages that form the guide to all Christians regardless of era, culture, or circumstances.
2. Have an appreciation that all decisions require ethical thinking.
3. Have an approach to ethical decision-making, which will prepare him/her for a
4. lifetime of biblically informed decisions.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Textbook Reading - 10%

- Students will be required to read the assigned pages in the text.
- A reading declaration will be filled out on each day the textbook reading is due.
- *This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 3.*

Due: See Course Schedule

Biblical Ethics “Foundation” Assignment - 10%

- Read the following passages:
 - Exodus 19:1-20:21
 - Deuteronomy 5-6
 - Matthew 5-7
 - Ephesians 4-6
 - Romans 12:9-21
- Make a list of commands and principles (dividing the positive ones from the negative) that guide behavior/decision-making.
- Comment on the things learned, feelings generated, etc.
- This may be done in bullet point form. A cover page is required.
- *This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 1.*

Due: February 6, 2024

Topical Assignment - 15%

- Students will be given a choice of topics on which to do a Scripture search (no other resources are to be used). Solely on the basis of this Scripture search, the student will draw a conclusion and present the research in a 2-3 page paper.
- *This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 2, 3.*

Due: February 27, 2024

Quizzes - 25%

- There will be a quiz on the assigned textbook reading for that week.
- This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 2,3.

Due: See Course Schedule

Term Paper - 20%

- Each student will present their research on a topic chosen from a list.
- Both sides of the issue should be presented.
- Then the student should present a well-reasoned argument (on biblical grounds) as to why he/she takes a particular stand.
- The paper should be no less than four pages in length and contain at least four quality sources. At least three sources must be print (not on-line) and Wikipedia is not acceptable as a resource.
- *This assignment will equip students to meet Course Objectives 1-3.*

Due: March 14, 2024

Final Exam - 20%

- The exam will cover in-class material. The student may use a non-study Bible during the exam but have no other help.
- *The Exam measure how well the student meets Course Objective 1-3.*

Due: Exam week

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments must be submitted **at the beginning of class** on the day that they are due.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

Reading: 300 pages

Writing: 7 pages formal, 2-3 pages informal

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	Reading <i>*Due before each class</i>	Written <i>*Due before each class</i>
January 16	Introduction to Biblical Ethics		
January 18	Part 1: Love		
January 23	Part II: Law	Chapters 3, 4	
January 25	Part III: Sin		Quiz 1
February 1	Part IV: Virtues and Vices	Chapters 7, 8, 9	
February 6	Part IV: Virtues and Vices (2)		Quiz 2 "Foundation" Assignment
February 8	Part V: Ethical Alternatives	Chapters 10, 11	
February 13	Part V: Ethical Alternatives (2)		Quiz 3
February 15	Part VI: God First	Chapters 12, 13	
February 27	Part VII: Intro to Family Ethics	Chapter 14	Quiz 4 Topical Assignment
February 29	Part VII: Sex, Marriage, Family	Chapters 15, 16, 17	
March 5	Part VII: Sex, Marriage, Family (2)		Quiz 5
March 12	Part VII: Sex, Marriage, Family (3)	Chapters 18, 19, 20	
March 14	Part VII: Sex, Marriage, Family (4)		Term Paper
March 19	Life Issues		Quiz 6
March 21	Life Issues (2)		
March 26	Life Issues (3)		
March 28	Part XI: Fallible Choices	Chapters 33, 34	
April 2	Part XI: Fallible Choices (2)		Quiz 7
April 4	Exam Prep & Review		
Exam Week			Final Exam

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Chambers, Oswald. *Biblical Ethics: The Moral Foundations of Life with The Philosophy of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 1998.
- Geisler, Norman. *Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
- Green, Joel B., general editor. *Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: BakerAcademic, 2011.
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- Grobien, Gifford A., general editor. *Ethics of Sex: From Taboo to Delight*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2017.
- Heimbach, Daniel R., series editor. *Christian Bioethics*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2014.
- Jones, Gareth. *Bioethics: When the Challenges of Life Become Too Difficult*. Adelaide: ATF Press, 2007.
- Kilner, John F., editor. *Why the Church Needs Bioethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- Messer, Neil. *Respecting Life: Theology and Bioethics*. London: SCM Press, 2011.
- Mohler, Jr., R. Albert. *We Cannot be Silent*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Books, 2015.
- Rae, Scott B. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- Reagan, Ronald. *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984.
- Vandrunen, David. *Bioethics and the Christian Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.