Introduction to Ethics (PH 3911)  
Fall/2014-15  
Syllabus  

Dr. John Mahony  
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Course Description  

The Christian Worldview maintains that the moral teaching of the Bible is normative for today. In the present study, the biblical ethic will be studied along with other philosophical options. Following the analysis of the biblical ethic, applications of it will be made.

Course Requirements  

1. Textbook Reading. The text for the class is *Walking in the Way*, by Joe Trull. The book serves as a valuable resource for the student and should be read in its entirety.

2. Research Project. The student will compose a eight- to ten-page paper (using Turabian Form) on a current ethical issue (abortion, pornography, war, prejudice, etc.). The goal for the project is the implementation of the Christian Ethic in response to a specific ministerial problem. The student has the freedom to pursue any particular topic of interest. The format for the presentation is used in the text and has three components: (1) Statement of the issue; (2) Analysis of the relevant biblical material; (3) Proposed resolution of the issue. The projects are due at the time of the final exam.

3. Examinations. There will be two tests during the semester. The proposed schedule is included below. The grading scale is:   
   Exams: 60%  
   Project: 40%  

4. Class Participation. The student is responsible for any material covered in class. It is imperative therefore that each student pays attention in class and seeks to make some contribution. Reading or working on assignments for other classes is not allowed. Each student is expected to take notes and pay attention during class. Use of computers is permitted but this does not include facebook or twitter. If the student, however, uses class time to work on assignments for other classes, check e-mail, send/receive messages, play games, etc, he/she will be dismissed from class for that day and will be charged with an unexcused absence.

Course Objectives:  

1. The student will be able to define ethics as a discipline.  
2. The student will gain new appreciation for philosophical history as it relates to ethics.  
3. The student will be able to use the Bible in the development of a Christian Worldview.  
4. The student will be equipped to identify and answer current ethical challenges.
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Daily Schedule

Session 1 (8/21): Introduction to Ethics.
Session 2 (8/26): Introduction to Ethics: Trull, Introduction.
Session 5 (9/2): History of Ethics--The Greek Philosophical Schools.
Session 9 (9/10): Biblical Ethics (Teaching of Jesus).
Session 10 (9/11): Biblical Ethics (Teaching of Jesus).
Session 11 (9/16): Biblical Ethics (Teaching of Jesus).
Session 13 (9/18): Biblical Ethics (James)
Session 14 (9/23): Adrian Rogers Conference.
Session 15 (9/24): Adrian Rogers Conference.
Session 16 (9/25): Exam 1
Session 17 (9/30): Goal of the Christian Life
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Session 18 (10/1): Motive of the Christian Life
Session 19 (10/2): Motive of the Christian Life
Session 20 (10/7): Direction of the Christian Life
Session 21 (10/8): Primary Forms of Love
Session 22 (10/14): Universal Norms of Love
Session 23 (10/15): Universal Norms of Love
Session 24 (10/16): Alternatives.
Session 25 (10/21): Alternatives (Antinomianism).
Session 26 (10/22): Alternatives (Generalism).
Session 27 (10/23): Alternatives (Situationalism).
Session 28 (10/28): Alternatives (Non-Conflicting Absolutism).
Session 29 (10/29): Alternatives (Non-Conflicting Absolutism).
Session 30 (10/30): Alternatives (Ideal Absolutism).
Session 31 (11/4): Alternatives (Hierarchicalism).
Session 32 (11/5): Alternatives (Hierarchicalism).
Session 33 (11/6): Exam 2
Session 34 (11/11): Christian in a Fallen World, 4
Session 35 (11/12): Moral Decision Making, 5
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Session 36 (11/13): Personal Ethics, 6.
Session 37 (11/18): Marriage & Divorce, 7
Session 39 (11/20): Human Equality, 8
Session 40 (12/2): Human Life/Medical Ethics/Euthanasia, 9.
Session 41 (12/3): Human Life/Medical Ethics/Euthanasia.
Session 42 (12/4): Birth Control.
Session 44 (12/10): Social Responsibility/Poverty, 10.
Session 45 (12/11): Ecology

Final Exams: December 16-17, 2014

Certification:
I have read the syllabus for Introduction to Ethics (PH 3911) and understand each of the requirements for the course.

Signed: ________________________________
Introductory Works


Classics


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Standard Texts


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Ramm, B. L. The Right, the Good, and the Happy. Waco: Word, 1971.


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(Basic Source for the Bibliography: Dr. David A. Horner for Christian Leadership Ministries’ AIP).