

**THEO 6560**

**Biblical Ethics**

2 Credits | Fall 2022 | Thursdays 2:00–3:50 p.m.; Cameroon Extension Site

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**Description**

This course analyzes contemporary moral issues from a biblically informed and God-centered perspective.

**2. Course Objectives**

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. See and savor Jesus as Sovereign, Savior, and Satisfier.
2. Think biblically and critically about various truth claims and evaluate them effectively and biblically.
3. Be able to apply a Christian ethic to contemporary issues
4. Be able to communicate Christian ethical and moral truths competently and convincingly

### TEXTS

*Required*:

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

James Nkansah-Obrempong, *Foundations for African Theological Ethics* (Carlisle, Cumbria: Langham Monographs, 2013)

John M. Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2008) Only parts 1-3

*Articles:*

Selected articles will be posted on the course Populi page as part of required reading

### REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Be present, be on time and be prepared. Listen attentively when the professor is teaching or when a fellow student is contributing with a comment or question. Ask questions and contribute comments. At the end of the semester, the professor will assign a class-participation grade that will take all of this into account.
2. **Reading:** You are required to thoroughly and thoughtfully complete all assigned reading (see course schedule for specific readings and due dates). Please complete the course reading log and upload to populi no later than Dec 16th at 11:59 PM local time. **Note that the course schedule may not feature all the assigned readings. You are expected to plan out all your reading (including whatever is assigned but does not appear on the course schedule) in such a way as to be able to complete everything by the last day of class.**
3. **Paper:** You will be required to write a 12-15-page paper on a selected ethical question that you believe the church should either address or do better at addressing. The paper should show evidence of substantive research (i.e., interact with seven to ten authoritative sources directly related to your issue) and a competent handling of the subject (use footnotes and a bibliography to show research consulted and used). You will be expected to apply the knowledge you have gained from the assigned readings and class sessions.

For style, abbreviations, and bibliography on written assignments, follow The SBL Handbook of Style, 2nd ed. (2014). Suggestion: Use the seminary research paper template.

Upload your paper to Populi by **11:59 p.m. on Dec 16th** **in either Microsoft Word or PDF formats only**.

1. You will have a **final exam** which will be a multiple-choice test. The exam will cover material dealt with in the whole course.

COURSE POLICIES

*Course Grading*:

Reading and Participation 20%

Paper 40%

Final exam 40%

*Late Assignments*:

• Except for unusual circumstances, students will receive credit for their assignments only if they complete them on time. The only exceptions will be for such serious matters as illness, birth or death in one’s family.

• This policy aims to train students to make responsible advance plan. This is a discipline they must develop as they prepare to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. This policy also makes class times more edifying since class lectures and discussions are directly related to the weekly assignments.

*Absence Policy*:

* Students should not miss more than one of our fifteen class times over the course of the semester.
* The point of this policy is to allow for sickness and unusual circumstances like funerals. The point of this policy is not so that students can cut this class in order to work on other classes.

*Note for Students with Disabilities*: Any student who may require an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the course instructor in this matter as soon as possible and no later than the end of the first week of classes. Special needs must be documented with the Bethlehem College & Seminary Registrar.

**SCHEDULE**

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| **WEEK** | **CLASS FOCUS** | **READING** | **ASSIGNMENT** |
| Week 1  8/25 | Introduction/Orientation  Theories and Frameworks | Frame Parts 1&2  Feinberg article on populi |  |
| Week 2  9/1 | The Ground of Christian Ethics: The Character of God | Frame Part 3 |  |
| Week 3  9/8 | Personal Ethics: The Life of Integrity | Frame Part 3 |  |
| Week 4  9/15 | Liberty vs Legalism: Romans 14 | Recommended Reading posted on populi |  |
| Week 5  9/22 | Gambling | Recommended Reading posted on populi |  |
| Week 6  9/29 | Divorce and Remarriage | Naselli article on populi |  |
| Week 7  10/6 | Civil Disobedience/Revolutions | Recommended Reading posted on populi |  |
| Week 8  10/13 | Suicide | Recommended Reading posted on populi |  |
| Week 8  10/20 | **Midsemester Break** |  |  |
| Week 9  10/27 | An Ethic of Work | Nkansah-Oprembong  Chapter 9 |  |
| Week 10  11/3 | An Ethic of Rest | Recommended Reading posted on populi |  |
| Week 11  11/10 | An Ethic of Play and Relaxation | Recommended Reading posted on populi |  |
| Week 12  11/17 | Politics and Governance | Nkansah-Oprembong; Chapter 7 |  |
| Week 13  11/24 | Economics and Poverty | Nkansah-Oprembong; Chapter 8 |  |
| Week 14  12/1 | Culture and Family/ Ethnicity and Reconciliation | Nkansah-Oprembong/Charles Ryrie Chapters 11 &13 |  |
| Week 15  12/8 | Ecology and Care of Creation | Nkansah-Oprembong; Chapter 12 |  |
| Week 16  12/15 | Finals |  | Research Paper and Reading Log Due |

**READING LOG**

**THEO 4545 Systematic Theology 3:**

**Ecclesiology and Eschatology**

**Spring Semester, 2022**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Date** | **Author, Book** | **Percentage Reading completed** |
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**Reading Completely Done: Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_; No \_\_\_\_\_\_. Number of Pages Not Read: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Upload this log no later than May 27 at 11:59 PM local time.***