



On-Campus Course Syllabus

MIN 403 L1

Ethical Issues in Ministry

Fall 2023

Class Information

Day and Time: Mon 1:45p-4:15p

Room Number: Campbell Office

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Jeffery Campbell

Instructor Email: jcampbell@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1307

Instructor Office Hours: Mon 900a-1100a, Tues 900a-1100a by appointment only.

Course Description and Prerequisites

An examination of contemporary ethical issues faced by those serving in a variety of contexts within the local church and beyond. (Prerequisites: PHI 201; THS 203; THS 204)

Course Objectives

1. To construct a biblically informed view of Christian ethics related to ministry.
2. To demonstrate an understanding of Christian ethics as it relates to ministry practice.
3. To evaluate current methodologies/praxis of modern ministry models related to Christian ethics.
4. To demonstrate the connection between understanding and action related to a specific issue in ministry.

Required Textbooks

Geisler, Norman L.. *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues & Options*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. (ISBN 9780801038792)

Trull, Joe E. and R. Robert Creech. *Ethics for Christian Ministry: Moral Formation for 21st-Century Leaders*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. (ISBN 9780801098314)

Course Requirements and Assignments

The student's grade is based on FOUR factors:

1. **Class Participation (40%).** Repeated exposure to the assigned materials and the input of the professor and other students in the class is vital to the purpose of the course. Perfect class participation results from perfect attendance and is tracked through Canvas.

2. **Class Preparation (25%).** Students are expected to come to class ready to interact with the professor, other students, and the assigned materials. Students must be prepared to give significant input in class regarding assigned readings. Class preparation is recorded through a one question quiz in Canvas due before the beginning of the assigned class period.
3. **Praxis Report (10%).** The students will, in conjunction with their local church, engage with a contemporary issue relating ministry to Christian ethics. They will then give a report in class outlining the theology and methodology of the account. First-hand accounts are preferred but second-hand accounts are allowable with the professor's permission. The report should last 30 minutes including time for questions.
4. **Final/Research Paper (25%).** The student must also prepare a research paper on a current significant ethical issue impacting ministry and broader culture. The paper should make use of at least twelve separate non-internet based sources (academic books and/or peer reviewed journal articles). The paper should have a section covering the current cultural understanding of the issue chosen and another section critiquing that understanding based on a Biblical understanding of Christian ethics. This paper is not less than 12 pages long. **The paper is due no later than 11:59 pm the day of the final.** Each day it is late will cost the student one letter grade on the paper. Strict adherence to the Turabian (Chicago) Manual of Style is required. See the Writing Center for assistance. Since the final is a synthetic demonstration of everything covered in the semester, students who do not take the final cannot pass the course and will receive a failing grade.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they (1) anticipate being able to attend every on-campus class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, or (2) participating in academically related activities as identified in online-course schedules including synchronous class sessions conducted remotely by video, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any missed information. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades. Professors apprise students of such information in course syllabi.

Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships must meet specified requirements of various departments at the college and should consult relevant sections of the *Academic Catalog*. To ensure such funds will not be forfeited, students are responsible for contacting the proper departments to ascertain any specific course participation requirements and consequences of not meeting such requirements. Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships should consult the Financial Aid office.

While Criswell College is a non-attendance taking institution, it nevertheless must demonstrate that students begin their courses in order to comply with Federal Aid regulations. Accordingly, students must participate in academically related activities during census periods. Failure to meet this requirement will result in students being administratively dropped from courses.

Academically related activity is defined as any course-related activity that may be used as evidence of attendance. Examples include:

- physical presence in a classroom during a class session with the instructor present,
- participation in a synchronous remote video class session with the instructor present,

- submission of an academic assignment, quiz, or exam,
- participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- participation in a study group or discussion board that is assigned by the instructor,
- documentation showing that the student and a faculty member corresponded about the academic subject of the course.

NOTE: Logging into a Canvas course alone and logging into a Synchronous Online class session without active participation or with the camera off are not considered attendance.

NOTE: A census period begins on the first day of a semester/term and runs through the end of the last day to drop courses. During the census period, attendance data is collected in order to demonstrate compliance with Federal Aid regulations. There is no census period for winter terms since there is no last day to drop courses.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Research and Writing Standards

The default writing style for written assignments in Criswell College Courses is the latest edition of *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian. However, instructors are free to require alternative writing styles in their courses. These styles include but are not limited to the American Psychological Association (APA), Chicago Manual of Style, Modern Language Association (MLA), and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) writing guides.

Resources and Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. The Student Services Office also works with local

counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Login credentials are emailed to students near the beginning of the semester.

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can schedule an appointment through Calendly (<https://calendly.com/criswell-tutoringcenter>) or by visiting the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203. For questions, call 214.818.1373 or email at tutoringcenter@criswell.edu.

Course Outline/Calendar

Date:	Topic:	Due:
Week 1 08/21	Introduction to the Class/Review Syllabus	NO ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week 2 08/28	Antinomianism, Situationism	Geisler 1-3
Week 3 09/04	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	NO ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week 4 09/11	Generalism, Unqualified Absolutionism, Conflicting Absolutionism	Geisler 4-6
Week 5 09/18	Graded Absolutionism, Basis for Ethical Decisions	Geisler 7-8
Week 6 09/25	Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia	Geisler 9-10
Week 7 10/02	Biomedical Issues, Capital Punishment	Geisler 11-12
Week 8 10/09	War, Civil Disobedience	Geisler 13-14
10/16-20	Student Development Week	NO ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week 9 10/23	Sexual Issues, Homosexuality, Marriage, Divorce	Geisler 15-17
Week 10 10/30	Ecology, Animal Rights, Drugs, Gambling, Pornography, Birth Control	Geisler 18-19, Appendices 1-4
Week 11 11/06	Integrity and Doing Good	Trull 1-2
Week 12 11/13	Integrity in Life and Ministry	Trull 3-4
11/20-24	FALL BREAK/THANKSGIVING	NO ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week 13 11/27	Peace, Justice, and Fellow Ministers	Trull 5-6
Week 14 12/4	Sexual Abuse/Code of Ethics	Trull 7-8, Appendices A-D
Week 15 12/11	REVIEW FOR FINAL: FORMATTING AND EXPECTATIONS	
12/12-14	FINALS WEEK	Finals are due no later than 11:59pm the day of the final (Thursday December 14th). Each day late will result in loss of one letter grade.