

Theology 185 & 186 Course Descriptions

Spring 2024

THEO 185-002, 185-004: Christian Ethics

Greening, Mary Margaret

185-002: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20AM – 10:10AM

185-004: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30AM – 12:20AM

How do Christians critically respond to complex moral problems in an interconnected, globalized world? This course will highlight the basics of Christian ethical reflection, using Catholic Social Teaching and contemporary justice issues as our starting point. Throughout the semester, students will apply frameworks for ethical reasoning with case studies that engage feminist, queer, and decolonial critiques of Christian ethics.

THEO 185-003, 185-008: Christian Ethics

Campbell, Jeffrey John

185-003: Tuesday, Thursday 8:30AM – 9:45AM

185-008: Tuesday, Thursday 1:00PM – 2:15PM

THEO 185 is an ethics core course that introduces people to the fundamental sources, methods, traditions, and insights of Christian ethics. The class begins with an examination of ethical relativism vs. universalism. We will then continue by exploring the main ethical theories and sources for ethical reflection. Together we explore how to apply these to ethical issues such as: (1) questions of war, terrorism, violence and peace making; (2) global ecological and economic concerns, (3) structural violence, and ethical issues emerging with (4) information technologies (which may include ethics of AI, ethics surrounding the gradual merging of the biological with the digital, and moral dilemmas of freedom of expression and social media). It is not required to adhere to the Christian faith—or any religious tradition—in order to learn together in this course. Additionally, always feel free to bring your own religious traditions (or objections!!) into our conversations! Often, I find that views from outside a tradition can bring helpful insights and perspectives. In our ever increasingly global world, this is needed more than ever!

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THEO 185-005,185-006: Christian Ethics

Vigen, Aana

185-005: Tuesday, Thursday 2:30PM – 3:45PM

185-006: Tuesday, Thursday 4:15PM – 5:30PM

This core ethics course will introduce students to basic methods & sources of Christian ethics and apply them to key ethical issues facing us in 2023, e.g: Structural Racism; Climate Change; Socio-Economic & Racial-Ethnic Inequalities in U.S. Health & Healthcare. Students will be introduced to central Christian theo-ethical concepts such as: respect for persons, virtue ethics, natural law, liberation theology and solidarity. Students will get an initial sense of the varied (& sometimes conflicting) ways in which Christians draw upon their faith tradition for ethical guidance. We will consider both Protestant and Roman Catholic thinkers, but the greater emphasis is on the Roman Catholic tradition. All/No Religious Backgrounds Welcome! Professing a Christian faith is not a requirement of this class, nor will it earn you extra points. If you were raised (or participate) in another religious tradition, or no religious tradition at all, your insights are absolutely welcome! Sometimes a view from outside a tradition can see more clearly than a view from inside it. Whether or not you identify with Christianity, I hope this course helps you see the diversity of ways in which Christians draw upon their/our faith tradition to come to (often very different) conclusions about how they/we, as Christians, should live and act in the world. Since theo-ethical values/norms/ideals inform (& are used to justify) many personal, public (often political) views, actions and policies in the U.S., it really helps to be able to unpack and critically reflect upon them. Doing this will, I hope, will help you clarify your own ethical views, and also help all of us (regardless of faith) critically assess claims that certain values or activities are Christian.

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THEO 185-007: Christian Ethics

Rajendra, Tisha

Tuesday, Thursday 11:30AM – 12:45PM

Introduction to Christian Ethics is a core course that explores the major sources, methods, and insights of Christian social and theological ethics. Particular attention is given to Roman Catholic thought. The course will concentrate on the foundational sources in Christian ethics and examine the moral significance of major theological themes and affirmations. Outcomes: Students will identify the major sources of Christian ethics (Scripture, Church tradition, philosophy, the social and human sciences, and human experience), and gain practice in identifying how different thinkers use, interpret, and prioritize these sources.

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THEO 186-003, 186-004: Global Religious Ethics

Matteson, Dannis Marie

186-003: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:40PM – 2:30PM

186-004: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:45PM – 3:35PM

This course will center around the book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur, whose work as a civil rights lawyer and movement leader is motivated and inspired by her spirituality and religious background as a person of the Sikh faith. Students will interact with this text as a primary example of what it means to articulate and engage in global religious ethics. Students will consider how practices such as wonder, grieving, fighting, rage, listening, reimagining, breathing, pushing and transitioning comprise Kaur's ethic of love. And, students will examine other authors who enrich these themes through their reflection on their respective religious traditions. This course will not involve lecture-style learning. Rather, in order to demonstrate how ethics is a bridge between theory and practice, this course is designed for students to participate in dialogue, collaborate together on projects, and engage in various activities during class sessions.

THEO 186-006: Global Religious Ethics

Dirnberger, Adam Miller

Wednesday 4:15PM – 6:45PM

Introduction to Christian Ethics is a core course that explores the major sources, methods, and insights of Christian theological ethics, bioethics, social ethics. While this course is fundamentally about students forming their own ethical perspective, particular emphasis will be given to placing their perspective in dialogue with the Catholic, Jesuit ethical tradition. Ignatian spiritual practices, interactive case studies, lecture, and dynamic discussion techniques will be central to course structure throughout the semester. The first half of the course will concentrate on the foundations of the Christian ethical tradition and their relationship to various secular ethical theories (utilitarianism, deontology, teleology, virtue ethics, libertarianism, and liberal egalitarianism). The second half of the course will focus on in depth application of the students' now more formed ethical framework to various bioethical and social ethical issues (including, but not limited to beginning of life decisions, end of life decisions, capital punishment, economics, and climate change).