

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

Fall 2019 Weekend

COS 424 ETHICS

Sept. 27-28 and Oct. 25-26

Dr. Ervin Smith

Class Times: Fri: 3:30-6:00/7:00-9:00 PM and Sat: 8:00-11:20 AM/1:00-3:15 PM

614-353-5549 (C) 614-656-7906(H & F)

Email: Esmithlove@aol.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the biblical and theological bases for Christian behavior, emphasizing the pastoral skills needed for moral leadership in the congregation and community.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological basis for ethical thinking and moral behavior, and distinguish major approaches to ethical reasoning.
2. Comprehend the relationship between their personal stories, pastoral vocation, local contexts, and responsibility as moral leaders.
3. Develop a Christian framework for moral reason and action, and apply it to the use of power and the setting of boundaries in ministry.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with and make use of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church as a resource for ethical reflection and action.
5. Apply Christian ethical principles to selected contemporary moral issues.

CLASS MANAGEMENT

Lecture and discussion by the Instructor on basic issues in Christian Ethics and material in assigned texts. Open discussion on course materials and responses to the primary ethical tasks of discovering “What type of person should I be?” and “What type of communities should I help bring into existence?”

REQUIRED TEXTS

Robin W. Lovin, **An Introduction to Christian Ethics: Goals, Duties, and Virtues**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2011

Patricia Jung and Darryl W. Stephens, **Professional Sexual Ethics**, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2013

Joseph Barndt, **Becoming an Anti-Racist Church**, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2011

The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church (2016)

(Particularly the section on The Social Principles and those resolutions relevant to the cases under discussion in the course)

COS 424 ETHICS 2

SUPPLEMENTAL AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Marie M. Fortune, **Is Nothing Sacred?**

Richard Hayes, **Moral Vision of the New Testament**

Rebekah Miles, **The Pastor as a Moral Guide**

Stephen Mott, **Biblical Ethics and Social Change**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Extensive reading in the assigned and supplementary texts.
2. Regular attendance and class participation. Students are expected to share with the class insights gained from the lectures, readings, class discussions, and/or other experiences and to raise significant questions that illumine the ethical issues under consideration.
3. **FIRST PAPER.** Write a short paper (typewritten, double-spaced, not more than 10 pages) on the twin tasks of Christian Ethics, “What type of person should I be?” and “What type of community should I help to build?” Include in your paper a response from at least two other persons in Christian Ministry. **Due: Oct. 8, 2019**
4. **SECOND PAPER.** List some things that will help you to be an Anti-Racist Pastor. List some things that can help your church be an Anti-Racist Church. Do no more than one page, front and back if necessary. **Due: Oct. 25, 2019**
5. **THIRD PAPER.** Write a response to four of the five ethical cases attached as case studies to the syllabus (No more than 20 pages, type-written and double spaced. In your response indicate (1) How you would have responded as Pastor and moral leader in each of these situations, (2) Identify biblical references and theological affirmations that inform your responses. (3) Identify the Social and Ethical Principles from the Book of Resolutions that most influence your responses. (4) Try also to indicate your understanding of the possibilities and limitations of your moral responses as Pastor. (5) Identify stories and experiences in your own moral development that inform your responses. (6) Use resources from the course texts and other supplementary readings where relevant. **Due: Oct. 29, 2019**

CLASS SCHEDULE

- Fri. Sept. 27: (3:30) Introduction: Discussion of Course Ideas, Readings, Goals
Lovin, Intro. To Christian Ethics, Part 1, Christian Ethics 3-66
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 1-4
Sexuality, Health and Integrity (Ott)
Fiduciary Duty and Sacred Trust (Stephens)
Sexing the Ministry (Hauerwas)
Erotic Attunement (Traina)

COS 424 ETHICS 3

- (7:00) Lovin, Intro. To Christian Ethics, Part 2, Goals 69-114
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 5-6
Sexual Ethics in History (Ruether)
David and Women and Power and I (Holbert)
- Sat. Sept. 28: (8:00) Lovin, Intro. To Christian Ethics, Part 3, Duties 117-182
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 7-8
Self-Love and Ministerial Practice (Ross)
Orthoeros: A Biblically-Based Sexual Ethic (Torre)
- Sat. Sept. 28: (10:00) Lovin, Intro. To Christian Ethics, Part 4, Virtues 185-235
Lovin, Conclusions, Comments and Reactions
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 9-10
Pastoral Care and Sexual Ethics (Marshall)
Ministry with Adolescents (Dykstra)
- (1:00) Discussion of Social Principles (BOR)
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 11-12
Teaching Sexual Ethics in Faith Communities (Lee)
Touch Not Mine Anointed (Powe)
- Fri. Oct. 25: (3:30) Barndt, Becoming an Anti-Racist Church
Practical ideas and actions to help me be an Anti-Racist Pastor
Indications from Moral Presence Papers
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 13-14
Mission and Sexuality (Charleston)
Preaching and Sexual Ethics McClure)
- Fri. Oct. 25: (7:00) Barndt, Becoming an Anti-Racist Church
Practical ideas and actions to help my church be Anti-Racist
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 15-16
Public Worship and Human Sexuality (Saliers)
Pastor/Parishioner Relationships (Hoeft)

COS 424 ETHICS 4

Sat. Oct. 26: (8:00). Discussion of Case 1 “Pastoral Identity”
Discussion of Case 2 “Pastoral Authority”
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 17-18
Pornography and Abuse of Social Media (Mercer)
When Leaders Fall (Hamilton)

(10:00) Discussion of Case 3 “The Pastor and Sexual Attraction”

(1:00) Discussion of Cases 4 “Pastoral Care and Counseling Issues”
Discussion of Cases 5 “The Pastor’s Social Witness”
Professional Sexual Ethics: Chapters 19-20
Sexual Issues in Parish Ministry (Hardman-Cromwell)
Sex and the Pastoral Life (Miller-McLemore)

(2:30) Toward A Personal Code of Ethics
Billy Graham’s Ideas of Ministerial Integrity
Conclusions, Course Evaluations, Adjournment

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one’s own work. A writer’s work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer’s distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.