

FE '01

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
RE 308 - Christian Responsibility
Instructor: Larry Jones
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Office hours by appointment and/or phone and/or e-mail

COURSE DESCRIPTION IN GENERAL CATALOG:

Examines the ethical implications of the Christian faith for the individual and community. Students will be engaged in a dialogue among Christian and non-Christian traditions of human dignity and social justice. Special emphasis will be placed on liberation from oppressive social structures, competing images of the church and religion in society, and the assertion that humans are created in the image of God.

GOAL: To become involved both intellectually and existentially with issues of Christian ethics by taking the insights of tradition and theory, applying them to actual case situations, and then reconsidering the adequacy of theory and tradition. Involved in this movement from theory to practice and back to theory are all the elements which go into an ethical decision. As always, we will apply the educational philosophy of Marianist Universities: 1) educate for formation in faith, 2) provide an integral quality education, 3) educate for family spirit, 4) educate for service, justice and peace, and 5) educate for adaptation and change.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop the ability to understand the ethical variables in the following areas: a) family, b) liberation from poverty, c) violence and non violence, d) the environment, e) business, f) medicine, g) sexuality, and h) life and death.
2. To engage in study and dialogue regarding the relevance of the Christian tradition to the crucial ethical issues which confront the church and society today.
3. To develop an awareness of and appreciation for non Christian approaches to human dignity and social justice.
4. To sharpen our ability to make ethical decisions which are consistent with our most deeply held convictions.
5. To be able to name and discuss the five characteristics of Marianist educational philosophy and apply them to the issues in this course.
6. To improve our abilities to read, think, discuss and write skillfully.
7. To develop the ability to actively participate in making this class both challenging and interesting.

REQUIREMENTS

1. An inquisitive yet open mind and a sense of humor.
2. Attendance at and active participation in all class sessions, including taking notes.
3. Completion of all reading assignments.
4. A one to two page weekly reflection paper on the readings.
5. At the end of each class session, a brief written sum up of the major contending positions dealt with in that unit.
6. A six to eight page term paper on one of the ethical issues dealt with in the course.
7. Mid-term essay exam (session #5) focusing on information covered in preceding class sessions and, final exam (session #10).

READINGS: Text: *Christian Ethics: a case method approach*, Robert L. Stivers, et al.
Various handouts

GRADING: 10% class attendance and participation
15% reflection papers (see next page for particulars)
15% sum-up papers (see next page for particulars)
20% term paper (see next page for particulars)
20% mid-term exam, Session #5
20% final take home exam, due Session #10

A = 90 - 100%	C = 70 - 79%	F = 59% and below
B = 80 - 89%	D = 60 - 69%	I = Incomplete

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the content of the course depending on the needs of the class.

TERM PAPER:

1. Based on an ethical issue related to one of the eight class topics. If you would like to choose another topic, please consult with instructor.
2. Six to 8 pages of written material. May be up to 10 pages, but no shorter than 6.
3. Use at least five research sources, three of which may be from the Internet and one of which shall be an interview of a specialist.
4. Discuss the major differing points of view and conclude with your own.
5. Include the religious dimensions of the issue written about.
6. Proposal for paper shall be summarized in a paragraph turned in at Session #5 and shared briefly with the class on that date.
7. Use MLA format (see handout) or APA format, including cites and reference list, double space and use proper grammar and punctuation.
8. When you turn in your paper at the last class session, also please provide instructor with a self-addressed envelope with 55 cents of stamps if you wish your paper returned to you.

**FORM FOR TERM PAPER
HEADING**

Term Paper Name
Date turned in

Title of Paper

REFLECTION PAPERS

1. The purpose of your reflection paper is to show that you not only read the material but that you reflected upon it and have attempted to focus on the key questions the class should discuss.
2. The reflection papers are due at the class session dealing with those readings.
3. While doing the readings you should jot down for your own reference ideas that impress you, things you disagree with, or questions you have.
4. After you have completed the readings, write one or two pages of your reflections on the readings using your reading notes per #3 above.

**FORM FOR WEEKLY REFLECTION PAPER
HEADING**

Readings for Session No. _____

Name
Date turned in

STYLE

Typed
Double spaced

1" margins
Correct spelling, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure

SUM-UP PAPERS

At the end of each class session we will take a few minutes for you to write a brief sum-up of what you consider the main points of view regarding the issue of that session. These will, of course, be hand written and turned in when you leave the class.

MAKING UP ABSENCES: Excused absences, such as military duty, may be made up by consultation with the instructor. **SUCH CONSULTATION SHALL BE INITIATED BY THE STUDENT.** However, since you will not have had the benefit of classroom presentations and discussions when absent, you will need to spend some extra time mastering the reading materials and perhaps getting other students' notes.

Re 308 READINGS

Session

1. **September 13 INTRODUCTION**
2. **September 15 FAMILY**
Stivers: Introduction 1-12, Family 15-43
3. **September 17 LIBERATION FROM POVERTY**
Stivers: Liberation 47-85
4. **September 19 VIOLENCE AND NON VIOLENCE**
Stivers: Violence/Non Violence 89-126
5. **September 21 ENVIRONMENT [AND MID TERM]**
Stivers: Environment 129-162

Video: In the Light of Reverence
6. **September 22 BUSINESS**
Stivers: Business 165-196
7. **September 24 MEDICINE**
Stivers: Medicine 199-225
- September 26 SEXUALITY**
Stivers: Sexuality 229-257
8. **September 28 LIFE AND DEATH**
Stivers: Life and Death 261-287
9. **September 29 FINAL AND COURSE EVALUATION**