

FE'00
Pms

Chaminade University
Fall 2000

Course: Religion 200¹⁰ Contemporary Issues in Christianity

Time: Friday 5:30 - 9:40 pm

Instructor: Gene Mills, Th.M., M.Div.

Contact: email: mills91@gte.net
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Textbook: Jersild, Paul T., Dale A. Johnson, Patricia Beattie Jung, and Shannon Jung, eds., 1998, *Moral Issues and Christian Response*, 6th ed. San Diego: Harcourt Brace College.

Course Description:

Examines the contemporary social issues which confront the Christian community, the relevant Biblical and theological assumptions that Christianity brings to the debate on these issues, and the methods to bring about social change within the context of the Christian community.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, the student will be able:

- * to articulate several ethical systems.
- * to delineate their personal process for making ethical decisions.
- * to defend their ethical convictions.
- * to discuss various contemporary issues confronting our society and their ethical implications.

Class Format:

The course will utilize lecture, discussion, guest presentations, student presentations, reading, reflective writing and examinations. Students are required to be prepared for each class session through readings and assigned activities so that the most benefit may come from the learning experiences in class.

Requirements and Grading:

Reflection Journal	25 points
Examination	25 points
Group Presentation	25 points
Research/Reflection Paper	25 points

A standard, 10-point scale will be used in regards to final letter grades.

Any assignment turned in late will be lowered in grade unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Unexcused absences equaling 2 weeks of the course will be reported to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Records office. Unexcused absence of more than one week of classes will result in a lowering of the final grade in the course.

Course Outline:

TOPIC	READING
1. Course Introduction	Introduction
2. Ethical Foundations	Chapters 1-2
3. Biblical Ethics	
4. Applied Ethics	
1. Marriage and Sexuality	Chapter 3
2. Family Values	Chapter 4
3. Racism, Feminism, Heterosexism	Chapters 5-7
4. Ecological Ethics	Chapter 9
5. Violence and War	Chapter 10
6. Economics	Chapters 12-13
7. Bioethics	Chapters 15-17

Note: The outline above is based on the textbook. The specific topics covered in the applied ethics section will be arranged according to guest schedules, etc.

Group Presentation Project

The class will be divided into groups to give the presentations. These presentations will cover a portion of the topics for the applied ethics section of the course. The assignment is to present the material for the assigned topic to the class in interesting and creative ways. Some methods may be drama, multimedia presentations, debate, etc. Time guidelines and group size will be determined according to the needs of the class.

Research/Reflection Project

The project will be on your choice of topic **from the list below**. It will be a paper of 6-8 pages in length, typed, double spaced, with standard font and 1" margins. It will be written in either MLA, Turabian or APA format **only** (preference is in that order), with footnotes and/or parenthetical citations, and a bibliography or works cited section. Use your style guide! Papers that do not follow the proper format will be lowered in grade, regardless of the content.

The purpose of this project is for you to gain and exhibit an in-depth understanding of *one particular contemporary, ethical issue and to develop a tentative ethical proposal in its regard*. As such, your research should be broad, yet focused — consisting of more than 6, yet less than 12 sources. Internet sites are allowable as long as they are reputable, scholarly web pages directly related to your topic. In a research/reflection paper, the writer needs to share what has been written and then dialogue with it. It is not merely a series of quotes and/or paraphrases. Plagiarism is a severe offence and will not be tolerated. You need to tell me what has been said and then tell me, based on your knowledge and beliefs (hopefully expanded through this course) why the authority is correct or not. Be careful to support logically any disagreement with an authority in the field, but feel free to disagree when it can be supported. You should use inclusive language (e.g., use words like humanity and humankind, instead of man or mankind, etc.).

Possible topics:

Immigration	Death Penalty
International Justice	Euthanasia
Suicide	