THEO 5354 Christian Ethics 基督教倫理

1st semester, 2015-16; Thur 09:30 – 12:15

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1. *Course description*

Ethics is a value enquiry about 'what shall I be?' and 'what shall I do?'. In Christian traditions, the ethical enquiry is correlated to three particular questions, that is, 'what the relationship between the triune God and the world is' (Christian foundation of ethics), 'what Christian practices and duties should be' (Christian practice of ethics) and 'what the questions asked of Christian ethics are' (Christian engagement in ethics). The course is to explore the sources, forms, norms, contexts and practice of Christian ethics in dialogue with other ethical systems with reference to contemporary ethical issues.

2. *Learning outcomes*

- To understand and critically reflect ethical theories.
- To explain and show critical understanding of the sources, features, norms and contexts of Christian ethics.
- To reflect contemporary issues in the light of Christian ethics.
- To develop a character oriented to the virtue of toleration, courage and openness.

3. *Course schedule*

3 hours lecture weekly.

Date	Topic	Contents, Assignments and Readings
Sept 10 Lect 1	Critique of morality	1. Content: Marx, Nietzsche, Hobbes 2. Readings Gauthier, David. *Morals by Agreement*. Chapter 1. (e-book) Rosen, Michael. *On Voluntary Servitude*.
Sept 17	No Class	
Sept 24 Lect 2	Ethical theories (1)	1. Content: Deontological ethics and teleological ethics 2. Readings: Graham, Gordon. *Eight Theories of Ethics*

		Chapter 6 and 7. (e-book)
Oct 1	Holiday	
Oct 8 Lect 3	Ethical theories (2)	1. Content: Virtue theory 2. Readings: Bennett, Christopher. *What is this Thing Called Ethics?* Chapter 6. Hursthouse, Rosalind. *On Virtue Ethics*. Chapters 5, 6 and 7.
Oct 15 Lect 4	History of Christian ethics	1. Content: Augustine, monastic tradition, Aquinas, Reformation, Kierkegaard, 20th century 2. Readings: Banner, Michael. *Christian Ethics: A Brief History.* Wogaman, J. Philip. *Christian Ethics*.
Oct 22 Lect 5	Sources: The Bible and Christian ethics	1. Content: The Bible and Tradition; Hermeneutics 2. Readings: Brock, Brian. *Signing the Ethos of God*. Hays, Richard. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. 中譯本《基督教新約倫理學》。
Oct 29 Lect 6	Sources: Jesus Christ and Christian ethics	1. Content: Kingdom of God; option for the poor; discipleship 2. Readings: Sobrino, Jon. *Jesus in Latin America*. Chapter 6. Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus*. Chapter 7.
Nov 5 Lect 7	Approaches to Christian ethics (1): subversive model Guest lecturer: David Tombs, Latin American Liberation Theology	1. Content: Doing ethics from the margins 2. Readings: De la Torre, Miguel A. *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins. C*hapters 1-3. Wells, Samuel and Ben Quash. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. Chapter 6.

Nov 12 Lect 8	Approaches to Christian ethics (2): ecclesial model	1. Content: The social ethics of the church is the church. 2. Reading: Wells, Samuel and Ben Quash. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. Chapter 7. Hauerwas, Stanley and Samuel Wells. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethic*. chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Nov 19 Lect 9	Approaches to Christian ethics (3) : universal model	1. Content: Kantian ethics; natural law 2. Reading: Wells, Samuel and Ben Quash. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. Chapter 5. Gill, Robin ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*. Chapter 6.
Nov 26 Lect 10	Norms of Christian ethics	1. Content: Justice and love 2. Readings: Jeanrond, Werner G. *A Theology of Love of God*. Chapter 8. Lebacqz, Karen. *Six Theories of Justice*. McCracken, Vic ed. *Christian Faith and Social Justice*.
Dec 3 Lect 11	Christian ethics and spirituality	Content 2 Readings: Groody, Daniel G. *Globalization, Spirituality and Justice*. Chapter 8.
Dec 7 9:30-12:15 Lect 12 (make-up class)	Christian ethical practice	1 Content: Making moral decision 2 Readings: Maguire, Daniel C. *Ethics: A Complete Method for Moral Choice*.

4. *Assessment*

A   Scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
3 Reflection	1. 'Virtue theory offers an ethical framework	Each paper

Papers Each paper is 1500 – 1800 words.	that is highly compatible with Christian morality.' Discuss. Refer to Lecture 1, 2, 3, 4 Due date: Oct 15 2. Comment on the use of Bible in Christian ethics. Refer to Davies, Eryl W. *The Immoral Bible* (T&T Clark, 2010), chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. (e-book) Due date: Nov 5 3. Can Ethics be Christian? Refer to Lecture 8, 9. 10 Due date: Nov 26	carries 15%,
1 Self-Reflection Paper 1500-1800 words	Write a reflection paper on your personal approach to moral decision making after attending this course. Due date: Dec 3	15%
1 Term Paper 5000 – 6000 words	Write any topic within the theme, "***Love and Justice in Christian Practice***". Due date: Dec 31	40%

B) Submission
All the papers, report and book review have to be submitted to Blackboard and veri-guide.

C) Marking scheme

A, A-   a more comprehensive understanding of relevant idea and knowledge with a clear presentation; a clear thesis and a certain extent of originality; dialogue with different scholarly works.

B+, B, B-   a good understanding of relevant idea and knowledge with a clear presentation and reference to scholarly works; a relatively less-defined and less argued thesis.

C+, C, C-   a relatively weak of understanding of relevant idea and knowledge; weak presentation; unclear thesis, and even contradiction; reference is limited.

D+, D, F   showing little understanding of relevant idea and knowledge; no reference to scholarly works; weak presentation.

5. Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submission. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

6. *References*

Journals:
Journal of Religious Ethics
Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics
Studies in Christian Ethics

Electronic resources
http://www.globethics.net/

Printed material
A Ethics in general

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Fairweather, Ian C. M. and James I. H. McDonald (1984). *The Quest for Christian Ethics*. Edinburgh, Handsel, Chapter 7.

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Korsgaard, Christine M. (1996) *Creating the Kingdom of Ends*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

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Shafer-Landau, Russ ed (2007). *Ethical Theory: An Anthology.* Oxford, Blackwell.

Stewart, Robert M. and Lynn L.Thomas (1991). 'Recent Work on Ethical Relativism', *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 29, pp.85-100.

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黃文三 (2013)：《倫理學》。台北，高等教育。

B   Christian ethics

Ahearn, David and Peter Gathje, eds. (2005) *Doing Right and Being Good: Catholic and Protestant Readings in Christian Ethics*. Collegeville, Michael Glazier.

Austin, Victor Lee (2013). *Christian Ethics: a Guide for the Perplexed*. New York, Bloomsbury T&T Clark.

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Brock, Brian. (2007) *Signing the Ethos of God.* Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.

Bucar, Elizabeth M. and Barbra Barnett eds. (2005) *Does Human Rights Need God?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005) (CC) BL65H78D64 2005

Burridge, Richard A. (2007) *Imitating Jesus: An Inclusive Approach to New Testament Ethics*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.

Christie, Dolores L. (2013) *Moral Choice: a Christian View of Ethics*.

Minneapolis, Fortress.

Colwell, John E. (2001) *Living the Christian Story: The Distinctiveness of Christian Ethics.* Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark

Cosgrove, Charles H. (2002) *Appealing to Scripture in Moral Debate.* Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.

Cunnungham, David S. (2008). *Christian Ethics: The End of Law*. London, Routledge. *On-line*

De La Torre, Miguel A. (2010) *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins*. Maryknoll, Orbis.

Dussel, Enrique. (1988) *Ethics and Community*. Kent, Burns & Oates.

Fiala, Andrew G. (2007) *What Would Jesus Really Do? The Power and Limits of Jesus' Moral Teachings*. Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield.

Gill, Robin ed. (2001) *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics.* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Gilman, James E. (2001) *Fidelity of Heart: An Ethic of Virtue*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Green, Joel B. ed. (2013) *The New Testament and Ethics.* Grand Rapids, Baker.

Grenz, Stanley J. (1997) *The Moral Quest.* Downers Grove, IVP.

Groody, Daniel G. (2007) *Globalization, Spirituality and Justice*. Maryknoll, Orbis.

Hauerwas, Stanley (1983). *Peaceable Kingdom*. Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame. 中譯本 :《和平國度》。香港，基道，2010。

Hauerwas, Stanley and Samuel Wells eds. (2004) *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics.*Malden, Blackwell. *On-line*

Hauerwas, Stanley and Charles Pinches. (1997) *Christians Among the Virtues* Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame.

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Holmes, Christopher R. J. (2012) *Ethics in the Presence of Christ.* New York, Continuum. *On line*

Jeanrond, Werner G. (2010) *A Theology of Love of God.* London, T&T Clark.

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Lebacqz, Karen. (1986) *Six Theories of Justice.* Minneapolis, Augsburg.

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