TALBOT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SCOTT RAE, Ph.D.
TTPT 703--CHURCH AND SOCIETY
SPRING 2013
3 UNITS—HYBRID FORMAT

COURSE OUTLINE

Description:

This course addresses the foundations of Christian ethics and their application to the various moral issues of the day. Various ways that the church interacts with the culture will be examined and the application of a Christian ethic to issues of life and death, family, sexuality, work, and economics will be studied.

Objectives: By the end of the course, the student will have:

1. Constructed a Biblical social ethic that can be applied to various social/ethical issues.

2. Adopted a model for the Church's involvement with the broader society.

3. Presented an analysis of at least three current social/ethical issues that are in need of a coherent Christian position.

Course Format:

Conducted online over 16 weeks in alignment with Biola University's 2012 Spring semester. Students will interact with the instructor and each other through weekly interactive on campus and online discussions and other assignments. The class will meet in the classroom on three Wednesday evenings from 6-9 pm (1/30, 3/6, 5/15). The remainder of the class will be conducted on line.

Each week will consist of reading, video segment of lecture, and discussion questions for interaction on blackboard. Case assignments are due when indicated in the course schedule below. You are required to do any three cases of your choice. Beginning in week three, there will be a short quiz each week on the reading in Rae, *Moral Choices*. The review questions from which these will be drawn are at the end of each chapter in *Moral Choices*. All work will be due on the Sunday night at the end of the particular week.

Week One 1/30 (in classroom)	Introduction to Course, Overview of Church and Society Issues; Current Context for the Church's Relationship to Society
Week Two	Social Ethics and Ethical Systems (Rae, ch. 1, 3)
Week Three	Christian Ethics (Rae, ch. 2)
Week Four	The Bible and Social Change
Week Five	Abortion and Stem Cell Research (Rae, ch. 5, Case 5.1 due)
Week Six 3/6 (in classroom)	Death, Dying and Physician Assisted Suicide (Rae, ch. 8, Kilner, Part Three, 185-257, Case 8.1 due)
Week Seven	Infertility and Reproductive Technologies (Rae, ch. 6, Kilner, Part One, 21-97, Case 6.1 due)
Week Eight	Genetic Technologies: Therapy, Testing and Information (Rae, ch. 7, Kilner Part Two, 101-182, Case 7.1 due)
Week Nine	Capital Punishment (Rae, ch. 9, case 9.1 due)
3/29-4/7	Easter Break
Week Ten	Morality of War (Rae, ch. 11, case 11.1 due)
Week Eleven	Sexual Ethics and AIDS (Rae, ch. 10, case 10.1 due)
Week Twelve	Introduction to Faith and Economics (TVOC, ch. 1-3, Calling Paper due)
Week Thirteen	Christianity and Capitalism (TVOC, chs. 4-7)
Week Fourteen	Issues in Business Ethics (TVOC, ch. 8, Rae, ch. 12, case 12.3 due, bribery case due)
Week Fifteen 5/15 (in classroom)	Discussion of Faith, Work and Economics, Wrap Up of Course

<u>Assignments</u>:

1. Reading of all texts, viewing of all video segments and in class/on line class discussion (counts 30% of your grade)

2. Short Answer Quizzes on assigned reading (on each chapter in Moral Choices, counts 10% of your grade)

3. 3 case papers addressing a case study on a specific issue in social ethics. These should be 5-6 pages in length and each paper counts 20% of your grade. They are due on the week in which the topic is discussed either on line or in class. You may do any three case papers you wish, but they are due on the week that topic is discussed. I suggest doing one case from weeks 5-8, one case from weeks 9-11, and one case from weeks 12-15.

Textbooks:

Rae, Moral Choices, Zondervan, 3rd edition (refered to as "Rae")
Hill, Rae, The Virtues of Capitalism, Northfield (referred to as "TVOC")
Kilner, Why the Church Needs Bioethics, Zondervan (referred to as "Kilner")

Office: Dr. Rae's office is in Talbot East, 312, x 5531. Email is scott.rae@biola.edu

Disability Requirement:

Students desiring accommodations for your class on the basis of physical learning, or emotional disability are to contact Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Student Services Building across from the gym and can be reached by calling (562) 944-0351, extension 5851.

Grading Standards for Written Work:

Whereas Biola University desires to maintain the highest standards with respect to the composition of all written work, any student paper exhibiting poor grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, or other substandard academic expression shall have the overall grade for that paper reduced accordingly. Generally, a paper will be deemed substandard and ineligible to receive an "A" grade when it averages three or more compositional errors per page. Moreover, at the discretion of the professor, the substandard paper may be returned to the student for correction and resubmission with appropriate grade penalties. Students deficient in writing skills may seek assistance at the Biola Writing Center.

Plagiarism:

Talbot School of Theology sees any form of plagiarism as a serious problem with serious consequences. Please refer to the academic integrity statement and article on plagiarism in the Talbot Graduate Student Handbook.