

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Fall Term 2017
Tuesday, 8:00 – 11:00 AM
Room 205

Instructor: Brent Waters
Stead Center for Ethics and Values (Stead Hall)
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Teaching Assistants: Leonard Gaines
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Purpose: To introduce students to the principal historical, theological, and philosophical sources of Christian moral theology. Particular attention will also be devoted to examining questions of moral formation and action within the ecclesial, familial, social, and political spheres.

Expectations:

Completion of assigned readings
Completion of written assignments
Regular attendance

Evaluation:

First essay as assigned by the instructor: 25% (approximately 1,500 words)
Second essay as assigned by the instructor: 25% (approximately 1,500 words)
Paradigmatic essay: 50% (approximately 3,000 words)

Required readings:

New, used, hardback or paperback, e-reader, or online editions (purchased, rented, or borrowed) are permissible. Unless noted there is no preference regarding edition, and since prices are subject to frequent change, students are advised to peruse online sellers and/or other sources. Consequently, indicating ISBNs and prices is superfluous. All listed texts are on reserve in the library.

E. Byron Anderson, et. al., eds., *Liturgy and the Moral Self*
St Augustine, *On the Morals of the Catholic Church* (Moodle)
Nigel Biggar, *In Defence of War*
Charles H. Cosgrove, *Appealing to Scripture in Moral Debate*
George Grant, "Thinking About Technology" (Moodle)
Beth Felker Jones, *Marks of His Wounds*

Paul Heintzman, *Leisure and Spirituality*
Gilbert Meilaender, ed., *Working*
F. LeRon Shults and Brent Waters, eds., *Christology and Ethics*
Sherry Turkle. *Alone Together*
Allen Verhey, *Remembering Jesus*
Brent Waters, *Just Capitalism*
Brent Waters, “What is Christian about Christian Bioethics?” (Moodle)
Sondra Wheeler, *The Minister as Moral Theologian*
John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus*

Novels:

Marina Endicott, *Good to a Fault*
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*
Anne Tyler, *Saint Maybe*

OUTLINE

Introduction and Overview

5 September

Required reading: St. Augustine
Verhey, Part 1
Endicott

The Background of Christian Moral Formation: Late Modernity and the Emerging Technoculture

12 September

Required reading: Turkle
Grant, “Thinking About Technology”
Ishiguro

The Foreground of Christian Moral Formation

19 September

Scripture and ethics

Required reading: Cosgrove
Tyler

Worship and ethics

Required reading: Anderson, Parts 1-2

First essay due

26 September

Doctrine and ethics

Required reading: Jones
Shults and Waters, Chapters 1-3

Pastoral counsel and moral judgment

Required reading: Wheeler

Lecture at 11:10 by John Evans, "Theological Anthropology and Its Competitors in the Public Mind: The Impact on Human Treatment"

Spheres of Moral Discourse, Deliberation, and Discernment

3 October

Healthcare and bioethics

Required reading: Verhey, Part 2

Second essay due

10 October

Required reading: Waters, "What is Christian about Christian Bioethics?"

17 October

Work and leisure

Required reading: Meilaender, I (A, C), III

24 October

Required reading: Heintzman, Parts 1-3

Lecture at 11:10 by Paul Heintzman, "Toward a Holistic Understanding of Leisure: Christian Perspectives"

31 October

War and ethics

Required reading: Biggar, Introduction, Chapters 1-2
Yoder, Chapters 1, 8, 10

7 November

Global economics and politics

Required reading: Verhey, Part 4

14 November

Required reading: Waters, *Just Capitalism*

21 November

Thanksgiving vacation – class does not meet

28 November

Required reading: Verhey, Part 5

Lecture at 11:10 by Sarah Bachelard

5 December

Retrospect and prospect

Third essay due