

Theology 185 & 186 Course Descriptions

Fall 2024

THEO 185-001 Christian Ethics

Dr. Jeff Campbell

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15AM – 9:05AM

THEO 185 is an ethics core course that introduces people to the fundamental sources, methods, traditions, and insights of Christian ethics. The class begins with an examination of ethical relativism vs. universalism. We will then continue by exploring the main ethical theories and sources for ethical reflection. Together we explore how to apply these to ethical issues such as: (1) questions of war, terrorism, violence and peace making; (2) global ecological and economic concerns, (3) structural violence, and ethical issues emerging with (4) information technologies (which may include ethics of AI, ethics surrounding the gradual merging of the biological with the digital, and moral dilemmas of freedom of expression and social media). It is not required to adhere to the Christian faith—or any religious tradition—in order to learn together in this course. Additionally, always feel free to bring your own religious traditions (or objections!!) into our conversations! Often, I find that views from outside a tradition can bring helpful insights and perspectives. In our ever increasingly global world, this is needed more than ever!

THEO 185-002, 185-003: Christian Ethics

TBA

185-002: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20AM – 10:10AM

185-003: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:25AM – 11:15AM

THEO 185-004 Christian Ethics

Dr. Tisha Rajendra

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00AM – 11:15AM

Introduction to Christian Ethics is a core course that explores the major sources, methods, and insights of Christian social and theological ethics. Particular attention is given to Roman Catholic thought. The course will concentrate on the foundational sources in Christian ethics and examine the moral significance of major theological themes and affirmations. Outcomes: Students will identify the major sources of Christian ethics (Scripture, Church tradition, philosophy, the social and human sciences, and human experience), and gain practice in identifying how different thinkers use, interpret, and prioritize these sources.

THEO 185-005, 185-006: Christian Ethics

Dr. Aana Vigen

185-005: Tuesday, Thursday 1:00PM – 2:15PM

185-006: Tuesday, Thursday 4:15PM – 5:30PM

This **core ethics** course will introduce students to **basic methods & sources of Christian ethics** and apply them to **key ethical issues** facing us in 2024, e.g: Structural Racism; Climate Change; Socio-Economic & Racial-Ethnic Inequalities in U.S. Health & Healthcare.

Students will be introduced to **central Christian theo-ethical concepts** such as: respect for persons, virtue ethics, natural law, liberation theology and solidarity. Students will get an initial sense of the varied (sometimes conflicting) ways in which Christians draw upon their faith tradition for ethical guidance. We will

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consider both Protestant and Roman Catholic thinkers, but the greater emphasis is on the Roman Catholic tradition.

All/No Religious Backgrounds Welcome! Professing a Christian faith is not a requirement of this class. If you were raised (or participate) in another religious tradition, or no religious tradition at all, your insights are absolutely welcome! Sometimes a view from outside a tradition can see more clearly than a view from inside it.

Whether or not you identify with Christianity, I hope this course helps you see the diversity of ways in which Christians draw upon their/our faith tradition to come to (often very different) conclusions about how they/we, as Christians, should live and act in the world. Since theo-ethical values/norms/ideals inform (& are used to justify) many personal, public (often political) views, actions and policies in the U.S., it's important to be able to unpack and critically reflect upon them. Doing this will, I hope, will help you clarify your own ethical views, and help all of us (regardless of faith) critically assess claims that certain values or activities are Christian.

THEO 186-001, 186-002: Global Religious Ethics

TBA

186-002: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30AM – 12:20PM

186-003: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:35PM – 1:25PM

THEO 186-003: Global Religious Ethics

Dr. Sandra Sullivan Dunbar

Tuesday, Thursday 2:30PM – 3:45PM

TOPIC: Reproductive Ethics in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

****Cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies and Bioethics**

This section of THEO 186 will explore different religious ethical approaches to reproductive ethics, with a particular focus on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We may have time to take a brief look at how other religious traditions approach reproductive ethics—possibly to include selected Native American, Buddhist, and/or Hindu sources. Most of our focus will be on contraception and abortion, though other issues in reproductive ethics (e.g., assisted reproduction, prenatal genetic testing, surrogacy, etc.) may come up.

We will find that there are many different approaches to reproductive ethics within each of these traditions because there are many ways of being Jewish, Christian or Muslim. We'll observe how individuals who identify with these different faiths navigate sex, gender and reproduction in their own lives, and how they adopt, adapt and/or creatively resist or reshape religious teachings and authorities. Finally, we will look at how representatives of these traditions attempt to shape law and public policy about sex, gender and reproductive practices in several countries, especially the United States.

Along the way, students can expect to have their understandings of "religion" and "ethics" complicated and expanded.

No books will be required for purchase. Many course texts will be found in the following volume, which is available online through the Loyola library system:

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Margaret Kamitsuka and Rebecca Todd Peters, *The T&T Clark Reader in Abortion and Religion: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Perspectives*

THEO 186-004: Global Religious Ethics

TBA

186-004: Monday 4:15PM – 6:45PM