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**TAYLOR SEMINARY**  
**TH 526 Christian Ethics**  
**May, 2012**

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### Course Details

Instructor: Dr. David Williams  
President, Taylor Seminary

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Weight/Times 3 credits class meets April 30-May 4 from 8:00-4:30

### Catalogue Description of the Course

A study of the relation of the Christian faith to the responsibility of the Christian and the church in areas of social concern. Attention will be given to the biblical and theological basis for such responsibility. Three credits.

### Learning Objectives

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. think ethically and theologically about our lives as individuals and our life together as church, nation, and world community;
2. demonstrate skill in the use of Scripture in ethical reflection;
3. demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of peace, love and justice in Christian ethics;
4. display faithful ethical reflection brought to bear on issues of contemporary Christian concern;
5. demonstrate growth in Christian character in the context of preparing for Christian leadership.

The assignment values are as follows:

Class Sessions	
Reading and Reflecting	40 hours
Scripture and Ethics Project (25% of grade)	12.5 hours
Topical essay (25% of grade)	12.5 hours
Professional Ethics project (25% of grade)	12.5 hours
Integrative essay (25% of grade)	<u>12.5 hours</u>
Total:	90 hours

### Required Textbooks:

Glen H. Stassen and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context* (IVP, 2003) – KE

Richard B. Hayes, *The Moral Vision of The New Testament* (Harper, 1996) – MVNT

Stanley M. Hauerwas. *The Hauerwas Reader*, edited by John Berkman and Michael Cartwright (Duke Press, 2001) – HR

Joe. E. Trull and James E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics* (Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2004).

### Course Requirements:

1. Class Sessions: students must attend and participate in all the class sessions during the week April 30-May 4. The schedule for this intensive week of classes will be distributed at a later date.
2. Reading and Reflecting: students are expected to actively read and reflect on all the assigned reading for the class.

3. Scripture and Ethics project: this project is divided into three parts, two of which are due at the beginning of class on **Monday April 30**.

**Part One:** read 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus noting the qualities, habits, virtues, practices, warnings, admonitions, rules, guidelines, and/or principles that seem relevant to pastoral ethics. Write a 500-750 word reflection on your observations (due April 30, 2012).

**Part Two:** read *Kingdom Ethics* (pp 1-145). Reflecting on both the textbook reading and the observation paper from part one, write a 750-1000 word position paper on “The Use of Scripture in Christian Ethics” (due April 30, 2012).

**Part Three:** read *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (pp 207-312). Using the paper you wrote in Part two as a basis, rewrite your position paper integrating new insights and depth of understanding gained from all the readings and class participation. **Due date: June 1, 2012.**

4. Topic essay: in consultation with the professor select one of the topics in *Kingdom Ethics*, *Moral Vision of the New Testament*, or *The Hauerwas Reader* and write a 1500 word essay. **Due date: June 1, 2012.** (Details for this assignment will be handed out in class.)
5. Professional Ethics project: Read Trull/Carter, *Ministerial Ethics*, and write a 1000 word paper which develops your professional code of ethics with specific attention to the cultivation of virtues and avoidance of vices related to practice of pastoral ministry. **Due date: June 15.** (Details for this assignment will be handed out in class.)
6. Integrative project: Read a total of no less than 900 pages from *Kingdom Ethics*, *Moral Vision of the New Testament*, or *The Hauerwas Reader*. Do an integrative project equivalent to a 1500 word essay integrating the material for this course. **Due date: June 15, 2012.** (Details for this assignment will be handed out in class.)

### **Guidelines for Submitting Written Assignments:**

All written assignments are to be submitted to me in **PDF or MSWord** format via email at david.williams@taylor-edu.ca. The subject line of the assignment should read as follows: Last Name First Initial Name of Assignment. **Please note: no term work can be accepted after June 15, 2012.**

Assignments and papers should be typed and formatted according to Seminary policy which can be found here: <http://www.taylorseminary.ca/taylor/pdf/SeminaryGuideforResearchandWriting.pdf>. In addition, students are **strongly encouraged** to have someone proof read their written assignments before submitting them. Students who need additional help in academic writing are encouraged to work through: Joseph M. Williams, *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, Longman, 2002; or, Patricia T. O'Conner. *Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know about Writing*, Harcourt Trade Publishers, 2000.

### **Academic Honesty and Integrity**

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and to the Taylor Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Seminary Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work” (*Seminary Guidelines for Research Writing*, p. 11). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and will be brought to the attention of the Registrar.** For more information see the discussion of avoiding plagiarism in the *Seminary Guidelines for Research Writing* referenced above.