

ETHICAL ANALYSIS & ADVOCACY (II)

■ Summer 2017 ■ ONLINE ■ Iliff School of Theology

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT ON TUESDAYS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course invites students to think about ethical analysis and advocacy from a variety of different lenses. Beginning with attention to ancient Egyptian and Greek morality, this course provides a framework for modern historic, modern, and post-modern models of ethical analysis. The second third of the class provides a thorough survey of Christian ethics; the final third of the class focuses on modern and post-modern secular ethics through cultural theory, utilizing the work of Hortense J. Spillers as a platform. Defining, describing and deepening students' knowledge of ethical analysis, this course also introduces students to advocacy through multi-media explorations of ethics in action, classroom exercises, and final group presentations that demonstrate their application of the theoretical approaches to ethics introduced throughout the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To begin learning the meaning and history of ethics and ethical analysis.
2. To hone analytical reading and writing skills through opportunities to compare and synthesize ethical principles.
3. To learn how to identify and delineate ethical principles and applied ethics.
4. To practice applying ethical principles in advocacy.
5. To identify, articulate, and analyze the strengths and weaknesses, challenges, and success of various forms of ethical analysis and advocacy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **COMPLETION OF READING ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO THE WEDNESDAY LECTURE POSTING.**
- **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE FOR THE CLASS SESSIONS.**
- **FINAL PRESENTATIONS.**
 - Groups of three to five will be formed in the first week of class. Final presentations will be made on the final day of class. Each group will have one half hour.
 - These presentations should explore an ethical dilemma that has arisen in the course readings and identify a form of advocacy that intersects with that dilemma. This dilemma will provide a foundation for the presentation that should: (1) demonstrate thorough research of the ethical dilemma and its social impact; (2) identify and evaluate several technologies of advocacy that are presently used to respond to this dilemma; (3) imagine and evaluate alternative technologies of advocacy that might be used to respond to this dilemma; (4) identify the ways that each of these technologies of advocacy – present and imagined – already do or could integrate deeper ethical analysis; (5) utilize and incorporate the interdisciplinary course materials; (6) creatively engage the classroom.
- **VIEWING WEDNESDAY LECTURES.**
- **RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES.**
 - There will be eight (8) response opportunities (weeks 2-9) to reflect your preparation, participation, and engagement with the course and course materials. **OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY, 11.59 PM MST.**
 - These opportunities will not be announced prior to the class session during which they are offered. They will be explained at the end of each Wednesday lecture.
 - These assignments will vary and will test your capacity to synthesize what you have learned in different ways. There will be opportunities to write independently and collectively. There will be opportunities to do group work. There will be opportunities to use the texts we have been studying. There will be opportunities to demonstrate your recall of the material we have been studying. These will be further explained during the introductory Google Chat meeting.

EVALUATION

- You will be graded according to Iliff School of Theology standards on a letter grading scale. For more information see: www.iliff.edu
- Your grade will be determined as follows:
 - Preparedness, Participation, Attendance, Completion of In-Class Assignments: 100%
 - Each opportunity will be worth 10% of your class grade
 - The final presentation will be worth 20% of your class grade

OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

1. **DO NOT plagiarize!** If you have any questions about whether or not what you are doing is plagiarism, ask. **NO ASSIGNMENTS FOUND TO REFLECT COMPROMISED ACADEMIC INTEGRITY WILL RECEIVE ANY CREDIT.**
2. If you are unable to complete the assignments due to physical or mental health reasons, please notify me prior to the due date for the assignment.
3. Pick a form of citation. Indicate which form you will use. Use it consistently.
4. All course assignments should be emailed the instructor by the designated time at jleath@iliff.edu.
5. Please save and submit your work for assignments in the following format:
 - a. [last-name].[assignment-name].eaa
 - b. e.g. leath.final.eaa or leath.final.eaa
6. I am glad to meet to discuss your written work. I will not be able to review full drafts of written assignments.

COURSE READINGS

The following are the books you will need to purchase. While additional supplemental reading may be required, it will be posted on canvas or distributed in class.

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by Terence Irwin. Hackett Pub Co Inc, 1985.
Karenga, Maulana, and Jan Assmann. *Maat: The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt*. Los Angeles: The University of Sankore Press, 2006.
Spillers, Hortense. *Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
Wogaman, J. *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.
———. *Readings in Christian Ethics: A Historical Sourcebook*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

Ethical Analysis: Foundations

Week 1 – Introductions – 14 June 2017 (12-2 pm MST – Google Chat)

Week 2 – Egyptian & Indigenous Ethics – 21 June 2017

Karenga, Maulana, and Jan Assmann. *Maat: The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt*. Los Angeles: The University of Sankore Press, 2006. (Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6.4-6.5, 7, and 8)

Week 3 – Greek Ethics – 28 June 2017

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by Terence Irwin. Hackett Pub Co Inc, 1985. (SELECTIONS)

Christian Ethics

Week 4 – 5 July 2017

Wogaman, J. *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993. (I, II, III)
———. *Readings in Christian Ethics: A Historical Sourcebook*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. (1, 2)

Week 5 – 12 July 2017

Wogaman, J. *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993. (IV, V)
———. *Readings in Christian Ethics: A Historical Sourcebook*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. (3, 4)

Week 6 – 19 July 2017

Wogaman, J. *Christian Ethics: A Historical Introduction*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993. (VI, VII)
———. *Readings in Christian Ethics: A Historical Sourcebook*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. (5)

Ethical Analysis & Advocacy: Modern & Post-Modern

Week 7 – 26 July 2017

Spillers, Hortense. *Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. (SELECTIONS)

Week 8 – 2 August 2017

Spillers, Hortense. *Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. (SELECTIONS)

Week 9 – 9 August 2017

Spillers, Hortense. *Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. (SELECTIONS)

Week 10 – 16 August 2017 (12-2 pm MST – Google Chat)