

## **Current Topics in Christian Ethics**

Summer Term at Sterling Divinity Quadrangle 2010

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Several recent social and scientific developments have stimulated rich reflection on the ethical implications of Christian faith. After reviewing fundamental moral concepts, leading normative theories, and the ways that basic Christian claims relate to both, this course considers contemporary Christian perspectives on virtue, evolution, sexuality, and the environment. We will examine principal Christian approaches to these matters, and collectively analyze their adequacy. This class will thus investigate the broader ethical contexts and consequences of prominent Christian responses to these developments, and furnish frameworks for reflecting on them theologically.

Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>: Philosophical and Theological Normative Ethics

The Right and the Good

Utilitarianism

Deontology

Divine Command

Natural Law

Imitation

Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>: Virtue Ethics

Kotva, *The Christian Case for Virtue Ethics*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1996. Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, and 4.

Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Christian Ethics and Evolution

Haight, *God After Darwin: A Theology of Evolution*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000. Chapters 1, 3, and 8.

Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>: Christian Sexual Ethics

Farley, *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. New York: Continuum, 2006. Chapters 1, 4, and 5.

Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>: Christian Environmental Ethics

White, Jr., "The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis." *Science* 155 (March 10, 1967).

Northcott, "Ecology and Christian Ethics." *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*. Gil, editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Palmer, "Stewardship: A Case Study in Environmental Ethics." *Environmental Stewardship: Critical Perspectives—Past and Present*. Berry, editor. New York: T & T Clark, 2006.