

THEO 5130 Christian Ethics

DRAFT SYLLABUS

Fall 2024, HYBRID, 3 Credit Hours

Tuesdays 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

(Syllabus subject to change)

I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Armida Belmonte Stephens, Theology Teaching Fellow

abelmontestephens(at)northpark(dot)edu

Office phone: 773-244-5228

Office hours: Wednesdays 11AM to 12 noon; Thursdays 12 noon to 2:00 PM CST; by appointment

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the methods and topics of moral reflection and action in their biblical, historical and theological context. The course focuses on new life in Christ as embodied in the church for the world. (from Catalog).

Additional Description: Paul says in II Corinthians 5:17-19, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” New life in Christ is based on the gift of faith and the life and work of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated in the event of being baptized into the body of believers and manifest in an ongoing life of faith. New life in Christ includes the experience of God’s love and forgiveness; it includes the practices of love and justice as central to Christian moral formation; it includes drawing from scripture and the tradition to help us live creatively. This course will use the framework of new life in Christ and the church’s ministry of reconciliation to explore Christian ethics as both Christian formation and the church’s response to “the least of these.” (Matt. 25)

III. TEXTS

- Wells, Quash, Eklund eds., *Introducing Christian Ethics* (Wiley Blackwell, 2017) ISBN: 111915572X
- Sondra Wheeler, *The Minister as Moral Theologian* (Baker, 2017) ISBN: 978-0801097843.
- Miguel De La Torre, *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins* (Orbis, 2014) ISBN: 1626980756
- James K.A. Smith, *Awaiting the King: Reforming Public Theology* (Baker, 2017) ISBN: 978-0801035791
- Augustine’s *City of God* (selections in PDF)
- Weekly articles and essays from a diversity of viewpoints provided in PDF

IV. ASSESSMENTS (detailed information on Canvas)

A. Preparation and Participation (20%)

B. Short Case Study Papers (20%)

Two short papers (~1200 words each) in response to case studies.

C. Roundtable Conversation (30%)

Work with two or more of your classmates to prepare a roundtable conversation applying Christian ethics to a pressing issue or question for the church and society (sign-up on the first day of class).

D. Persuasive Research Paper (30%)

Final paper (~3000 words) on a topic/question of your choosing but must be different from the case studies or roundtable discussion.

V. GRADING

Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Participation	20%
Case Study Papers	20%
Roundtable Conversation	30%
Final Paper	30%

*Grade percentages operate as follows: A+ (97-100), A (93-96.9), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), and so on.

VI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.
3. Copying another’s answers on a quiz or exam.
4. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
5. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), p. 25–26.

VII. ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you

have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

VIII. TITLE IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or TitleIX@northpark.edu to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University's Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or counseling@northpark.edu. Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

IX. INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

X. COURSE SCHEDULE: AVAILABLE ON CANVAS