



OMEGA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

AMERICAN CENTRE FOR
RELIGION/SOCIETY STUDIES (ACRSS)

Changing the World Through Social Research

Ethics in a Global Society

PHI 801

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Being Known

- **Name**
- **Occupation**
- **Program and area of interest**
- **Interaction with Ethics in a Global Society**



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Program Outcomes

Explore the move from ethical theory to ethical practice.

Program Outcomes

An examination of Christian approaches to ethical systems and a survey of ethical theories.

Ethics is confronted directly by the challenges posed by a postmodern global society. In order to promote ethical orthopraxis by the student, the student explores the move from ethical theory to ethical practice.



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Course Outcomes

- Survey
- Explain
- Distinguish
- Define
- Defend
- Integrate

- **Survey**
 - ethical theories' history and significant development, especially teleological, existential, and deontological.
- **Explain**
 - and model essential elements needed in making ethical decisions.
 - essential elements needed in making ethical decisions.
- **Distinguish**
 - between ethics, morals, and etiquette.
 - between personal ethical decisions and social ethical decisions.
- **Define**
 - decision-making in a pluralistic and global society.
- **Defend**
 - the importance of the Ethics of Responsibility of living in a postmodern global society regarding Human rights.
- **Integrate**



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Ethics Defined

**Explore the move from ethical theory to
ethical practice.**

“Ethics is the study of principles of right conduct...the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by a person,...and the rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession.”



Ethics in a Global Society

Civil Discourse Required

- Listen & speak with an open mind.
- Go together- African Proverb
- Seek to understand
- Expect to be misunderstood
- Allow yourself to be disturbed
- Take Risks

- Listen and Speak with an open mind.
 - Truly hear what others are saying
 - Focus on their response, not yours
- Go together
 - Go fast, go alone
 - Go far, go together
- Seek to understand over seeking to understood
- Expect to be misunderstood
- Be disturbed
 - It's ok for someone, myself included to say something that disturbs you, we are not passing moral judgements on each other.
 - Protect one another- keep what was said here.
- Take risks



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Challenges in Global Ethics

- **Cultural Perspectives**
 - **Why would they do that?**
 - **Right, Wrong, & Different**

We have to work to see:

-What did this mean in that culture at that time.

-Properly contextualize a particular ethical theory.



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Challenges in Global Ethics





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Foundation for Christian Ethics

Christian Ethics Defined:

“the science which treats of the sources, principles, and practices of right and wrong in the light of the Holy Scriptures, in addition to the light of reason and nature.”

-L.S. Keyser

Keyser, L. S. (2012). *A Manual of Christian Ethics*. Literary Licensing, LLC.

Theological understanding inform our ethical understand and practice

-Special Revelation (Kunhiyop, 2009)

- “The record of God’s revelation is contained in Scriptures” (see 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- “God’s revelation in Scripture not only tells us about who he is but also how we should

live. (see 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

• In the Bible, God clearly lays out what he regards as ethical behavior: “to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

-General Revelation

“What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made” (Romans 1:19-20 see also Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31).



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General Revelation

Special Revelation

Christ is the Cornerstone

Theological understanding inform our ethical understand and practice

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live. (see 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- In the Bible, God clearly lays out what he regards as ethical behavior: “to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

READ: Binda, Omega: Special Revelation

READ: Binda, Omega: Christ is the Cornerstone of Christian Ethics



Ethics in a Global Society

- **Postmodernism** offered an epistemological skepticism about enlightened modernism and its belief in universally accepted truths to be discovered and imparted for the improvement of people's lives at an individual level.
- **Metamodernism & beyond**
 - Ontology of metamodernism is metaxis.
 - Aligned with the epistemology of modernism and postmodernism, metamodernism is based on 'as if' thinking rooted in Immanuel Kant's 'negative' idealism (Vermeulen and Van den Akker 2010). Though meta-modernists can subscribe to the search for usable knowledge and truth, as well as the need for reason, they do not ground their epistemology on the subject-object metaphysics of modernism. Instead, they stress the constant situatedness of individuals in a communal or cultural context that limits our understanding of the world (Feldman 2005).

Ontology is the philosophical study of being. As one of the most fundamental concepts, being encompasses all of reality and every entity within it.

Metaxis- Between Modern and Post modern, sometimes like a swinging pendulum.

Epistemology (as if)- the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope, and the distinction between justified belief and opinion.



Ethics in a Global Society

Essential Elements

- Survey the history and significant development of ethics.
- Understand ethics as the philosophy and methodology of behavior and the conducting of human activities.
- Compare the different approaches of traditional ethical systems to Christian ethics.
- Evaluate the secular ethical standards concerning current world events and respond with a Christian ethical application.



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Assignment #1 Discussion

Discussion of Essential Elements

Have students read their assignment and discuss.



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Global Ethical Christian Issues?

Does your area of interest address or encounter an ethical issue?

What are the most important ethical questions of our time?



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Assignments

#2. Developmental Reading

#3. Essay: analyzes a topic in ethics relevant to your research interests, professional growth, and as an interdisciplinary faith-learning scholar.

#4. Course Learning Journal

Scholars Porch Discussion Post: Discuss, Apply, Integrate



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Additional Sources

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- Keyser, L. S. (2012). *A Manual of Christian Ethics*. Literary Licensing, LLC.
- Kunhiyop, S. W. (2009). *African Christian Ethics*. Hippo Books.
- Pipere, A., & Mārtinsone, K. (2022). Metamodernism and Social Sciences: Scoping the Future. *Social Sciences*, 11(10), Article 10. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11100457>
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- Vermeulen, T. (2011). *Hard and soft—Notes on Metamodernism*. <https://www.metamodernism.com/2011/03/16/hard-and-soft/>



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