

THEO 3254/ 5354 Christian Ethics 基督教倫理
1st Semester, 2024-225; Thurs, 9:30 – 12:15; CKB UG04

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1. Course description

Ethics is an exploration of values, centered on the questions of “what shall I be?” and “what shall I do?” in the context of social relations. In Christian traditions, the ethical enquiry is intricately lined to three key questions: “what is the relationship between the triune God and the world?”, “what should Christian practices and duties be?” and “what are the questions asked of Christian ethics?” These two sets of enquiry form the foundation of the course, which seeks to explore metaethics, normative ethics, moral agency and applied ethics while engaging in a dialogue with Christian traditions.

2. Learning outcomes

- A. Understand and reflect the nature of ethics.
- B. Identify and reflect various models of Christian ethics.
- C. Be critically and imaginatively engaged in contemporary ethical issues with Christian resources.
- D. Nurture a character oriented to the virtue of toleration, courage and openness.

3. Text books

Bennett, Christopher. 2010. *What is this Thing Called Ethics?* Routledge.

Wells, Samuel and Ben Quash. 2010. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. John Wiley & Sons.

林火旺。2005。《倫理學入門》。上海，上海古籍。

龔立人。2010。《是與非以外：基督教倫理想像》。香港，基道。

1999。《人際關係建立》。香港，香港基督徒學會。

4. Course schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 5 Lect 1	Metaethics (1): Is an individual moral decision a matter of moral luck?	龔立人 (2010), 頁 79-88。 Ward (2018). (online)
Sept 12	Metaethics (2): Is there such a thing as	Bennett, Chapters 7-9. (online)

Lect 2	morality?	林火旺，第 11-12 章。(online)
Sept 19 Lect 3	Metaethics (3): How do you justify Christian ethics? A sharing session on “Knowing Who’s Who”. It is about how gender, age, culture, education, socio-economic status, experiences, character and others shape who I am.	Austin, Chapter 2. (online) Carlisle, Chapter 2 (online) 龔立人 (2010), 頁 69-78。
Sept 26 Lect 4	Christian normative ethics (1): God as creator, redeemer and sanctifier	Long and Miles, Chapter 1 (online). Reed, Chapters 1-2. Wells and Quash, Chapter 1. (on-line)
Oct 3 Lect 5	Christian normative ethics (2): The use and abuse of Bible	Birch, Chapters 5, 6 and 7. (online) Davies (online) Hays, Chapters 9-10 ; 中譯本《基督教新約倫理學》。
Oct 10	No class	
Oct 17 Lect 6	Christian normative ethics (3): Experience, reason and contextuality	Gill, Chapter 6. Kung. Porter, Chapters 2 and 3. Winright ed., Chapter 3 (online). 龔立人 (2010), 頁 3-26.
Oct 24 Lect 7	Christian normative ethics (4): Different models of Christian ethics	Allsopp, Chapters 1, 2 and 5. De La Torre, Chapters 2 and 3. (on-line) Wells and Quash, Chapters 5, 6 and 7. (on-line) 龔立人 (1999)。
Oct 31 Lect 8	Moral agency (1) : The Church	Banner. Hauerwas (1983), Chapter 6. 《和平國度》 Wells and Quash, Chapters 2 and 4. (on-line)
Nov 7 Lect 9	Moral agency (2) : Virtue ethics and moral psychology	Gula. (online) Kotva, Chapters 2, 3.

		Miller. (online) Winright ed., Chapter 6, 9, 11 (online)
Nov 14 Lect 10	Moral agency (3) : Spirituality and morality	Doyle, Chapters 8 and 10. Hauerwas (1983), Chapters 2 and 6. 中譯本 : 《和平國度》。第二和六章。 Vos, pp.109-148. Wainwright, Chapters 1 and 2. (online)
Nov 21 Lect 11	Applied ethics (1): Decision-making and ethical theories	Bennett, Chapters 4-6. (online) Graham, Chapters 6-7. (online) 林火旺, 第 3-7 章。 (online)
Nov 28 Lect 12	Applied ethics (2): Christian ethics and AI; Christian ethics and civic space; Christian ethics and disability.	Wells and Quash, Chapters 8-12. (online) Winright.

5. Assessments

A) Scheme

Task nature	Description
Reflection 1 2000-2500 words. Due date, Oct 10. 25%.	Write an essay on one of questions articulated in Lecture 1, 2 and 3.
Reflection 2 2000-2500 words. Due date, Nov 14. 25%.	Choose one of the followings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the ethical interpretation and use of the Bible in Christian ethics. 2. “Jesus Christ is the ultimate Christian norm of living a moral life.” Comment. 3. “Ecclesial ethic is a sectarian ethic.” Comment.
A Final Paper 4000- 5000 words. Due date, Dec 20. 50%. A Brief report on Nov 28.	Theme: “Good life: Doing Christian ethics in contexts”. Choose one of the ethical issues for making a Christian ethical reflection. Reference: Wells, S. and Ben Quash. <i>Introducing Christian Ethics</i> . Chapters 8-12.

B) Submission

All the papers, report and book review have to be submitted to Blackboard and veri-guide.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submission. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

C) Marking scheme

A, A- a more comprehensive understanding of relevant idea and knowledge with a clear presentation; a clear thesis and a certain extent of originality; dialogue with different scholarly works.

B+, B, B- a good understanding of relevant idea and knowledge with a clear presentation and reference to scholarly works; a relatively less-defined

and less argued thesis.

C+, C, C- a relatively weak of understanding of relevant idea and knowledge; weak presentation; unclear thesis, and even contradiction; reference is limited.

D+, D, F showing little understanding of relevant idea and knowledge; no reference to scholarly works; weak presentation.

6. References

Journals:

Journal of Religious Ethics

Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics

Studies in Christian Ethics

Electronic resources

Global Ethics <https://repository.globethics.net/> (free access to resources on ethics)

A) Ethics in general

Bennett, Christopher. 2010. *What is this Thing Called Ethics?* Routledge.

Burnor, Richard and Yvonne Raley. 2011. *Ethical Choices: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy with Cases*. Oxford University Press.

Carlisle, Clare. 2010. *Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling*. Continuum.

Copp, David ed. 2006. *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*. Oxford University Press.

Froese, Katrin. 2013. *Ethics Unbound: Chinese and Western Perspectives on Morality*. Chinese University of Hong Kong Press.

Graham, Gordon. 2004. *Eight Theories of Ethics*. Routledge.

Gula, Richard M. 1999. *The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge*. Paulist.

Helm, Paul ed. 1981. *Divine Commands and Morality*. Oxford University Press.

Kekes, John. 1993. *The Morality of Pluralism*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 2.

Korsgaard, Christine M. 1996. *Creating the Kingdom of Ends*. Cambridge University Press.

Küng, Hans. 2004. *Global Responsibility*. Wipf and Stock.

Mackie, J. 1990. *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*. Penguin.

McCrudden, Christopher. 2013. *Understanding Human Dignity*. Oxford

University Press.

Miller, Christian B. 2021. *Moral Psychology*. Cambridge University Press.

Newton, Adam Zachary. 1995. *Narrative Ethics*. Harvard University Press.

Rachels, James. 1993. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. McGraw-Hill.

Schweiker, William. 2007. *The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics*.

Blackwell.

Shafer-Landau, Russ ed. 2007. *Ethical Theory: An Anthology*. Blackwell.

Stewart, Robert M. and Lynn L. Thomas. 1991. 'Recent Work on Ethical

Relativism', *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 29, 85-100.

Ward, Kate. 2018. "Toward a Christian Virtue Account of Moral Luck."

Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics, 38:1, 131-145.

林火旺 (2005) :《倫理學入門》。上海，上海古籍。(online)

黃文三 (2013) :《倫理學》。台北，高等教育。

B) Christian ethics

Ahearn, David and Peter Gathje, eds. 2005. *Doing Right and Being Good:*

Catholic and Protestant Readings in Christian Ethics. Michael Glazier.

Allsopp, Michael E. 2003. *Models of Christian Ethics*. University of Scranton

Press.

Austin, Victor Lee. 2013. *Christian Ethics: a Guide for the Perplexed*.

Bloomsbury T&T Clark.

Baggett, David and Jerry L. Walls. 2011. *Good God: The Theistic Foundations*

of Morality. Oxford University Press.

Banner, Michael. 2009. *Christian Ethics*. Wiley Blackwell.

Barton, John. 2003. *Understanding Old Testament Ethics*. Westminster John

Knox.

Bayer, Oswald. 2007. *Freedom in Response*. Oxford University Press.

Birch, Bruce C. et al. 2018. *Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life: A New*

Conversation. Augsburg.

Bonhoffer, Dietrich. 1959. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Macmillan.

Boyd, Criag A. 2018. *Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy*. Baker Academic.

Bretherton, Luke. 2023. *A Primer in Christian Ethics*. Cambridge University

Press.

Brock, Brian. 2007. *Signing the Ethos of God*. Eerdmans.

Brown, Malcolm. 2017. *Tensions in Christian Ethics*. SPCK.

Bruger, Hans, Arnold Huijgen, and Eric Peels. 2017. *Sola Scriptura: Biblical*

and Theological Perspectives on Scripture, Authority and Hermeneutics.

Brill.

- Bucar, Elizabeth M. and Barbra Barnett eds. 2005. *Does Human Rights Need God?* Eerdmans.
- Burridge, Richard A. 2007. *Imitating Jesus: An Inclusive Approach to New Testament Ethics.* Eerdmans.
- Cameron, Andrew J. B. 2022. *The Logic of Love: Christian Ethics and Moral Psychology.* T&T Clark.
- Christie, Dolores L. 2013. *Moral Choice: a Christian View of Ethics.* Fortress.
- Colwell, John E. 2001. *Living the Christian Story: The Distinctiveness of Christian Ethics.* T & T Clark.
- Cosgrove, Charles H. 2002. *Appealing to Scripture in Moral Debate.* Eerdmans.
- Cunningham, David S. 2008. *Christian Ethics: The End of Law.* Routledge.
- Davies, Eryl W. 2010. *The Immoral Bible.* Continuum.
- De La Torre, Miguel A. 2010. *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins.* Orbis.
- Doyle, Dennis M. 2001. *Communion Ecclesiology.* Orbis.
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- Gilman, James E. 2001. *Fidelity of Heart: An Ethic of Virtue.* Oxford University Press.
- Green, Joel B. ed. 2013. *The New Testament and Ethics.* Baker.
- Grenz, Stanley J. 1997. *The Moral Quest.* IVP.
- Groody, Daniel G. 2007. *Globalization, Spirituality and Justice.* Orbis.
- Gula, Richard M. 1999. *The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge.* Paulist.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. 1981. *A Community of Character.* University of Notre Dame.
1983. *Peaceable Kingdom.* Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame. 中譯本：《和平國度》。香港，基道，2010。
- Hauerwas, Stanley and Samuel Wells eds. 2004. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics.* Blackwell.
- Hauerwas, Stanley and Charles Pinches. 1997. *Christians Among the Virtues.* University of Notre Dame.
- # Hays, Richard. 1996. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament.* HarperCollins. 中譯本：《基督教新約倫理學》。台北，校園，2011。
- Hogan, Linda. 2000. *Confronting the Truth: Conscience in the Catholic*

- Tradition*. Paulist.
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孫寶玲。2008。《新約倫理》。香港：香港浸信會神學院。

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