Course Description

This course deals with Christian ethics and ethical principles. The main approaches to ethics will be outlined and surveyed, and the course will focus on core ethical principles and the implications of such principles in making decisions on moral issues. The nature of ethics as community ethics will be highlighted and will provide the form and context of such decision-making, and the significance of the Christ Event will determine its content. The course will look into some specific examples of current moral issues in Oceania and provide students with the opportunity of engaging with such issues in view of making ethical decisions.

Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the place of character, choices and community in Christian ethics
- Relate cultural stories to Christian ethics
- Understand the difference between ethics and Christian ethics
- Name several sources of Christian ethics
- Describe various philosophical and theological ethical theories
- Use the Bible in Christian ethics
- Face moral problems

Method of Teaching

A combination of lectures, readings, writing, and class discussion.

Assessment

In all assessment you must ANSWER THE QUESTION. If you do not answer the question you will not do well. If you don't understand what is required in the essay please speak to the lecturer, either in class or after class. To pass the course you must pass both pieces of assessment.

1) Essay of 1000-1500 words worth 40% of final grade. It is due in class Monday 12 October 2014. Select a traditional story from your culture (this could a fable, myth, legend, or tale). Examine the story for its ethical content and how it contributes to the formation of character and community in the place where the story is told and known.

Your essay must not simply be a retelling of the story. Your must state in brief outline what the story is (and, if not too long, attached it as an appendix to the essay). Your essay must draw on research you have done into the relationship between stories and ethics. You must provide evidence of this research by citing appropriate sources (generally speaking books and journals from the library). Your assignment
must have a completed "PTC Assignment Cover Sheet" attached to the front of the assignment. This can be obtained from http://ptc.ac.fj/?page_id=1136.

**Suggested reading from the library collections for the essay**


2) **Final Exam** to be held in Assessment Week. Three hours worth 60% of the final grade. Details to come.

**Textbook and Readings**

The textbook for this class is Russell B. Connors, Jr., and Patrick T. McCormick (1998). *Character, Choices & Community: The Three Faces of Christian Ethics* New York: Paulist Press. This is available from the PTC bookshop and is also in the library. We are reading most of this book for the course so you need to have it.

This textbook is supplemented by a number of other readings from books or journals. As required these are taken will be kept on closed reserve in the PTC Library. Ask at the issue desk for them. It is up to you whether you read them in the library or photocopy them for your personal study. Journal articles and book chapters will either be available through the library's online ATLA Religion Database, or in the library's filing cabinet.

There are several reference works on Christian Ethics also held by the library. These include:


There are some other general works on reserve for help with essays and exam preparation:


Course Outline

Week 1 - (week beginning 07 September 2015)

Session 1: Introduction to Ethics

No reading.

Session 2: Introduction to Christian Ethics

Required Reading


Further Optional Reading


Week 2 - (week beginning 14 September 2015)

Session 1: Christian Ethics in the Pacific

Required Reading


Further Optional Reading

*Catalyst* 20(2): 97-115. [in library]


Session 2: Sources of Christian Ethics

Required Reading
- *Character, Choices & Community*, Chapter 1.

Further Optional Reading

Week 3 - (week beginning 21 September 2015)

Session 1: Character in Christian Ethics

Required Reading
- *Character, Choices & Community*, Chapter 2.

Further Optional Reading

Session 2: Choices in Christian Ethics

Required Reading
- *Character, Choices & Community*, Chapter 3.

Further Optional Reading

Week 4 - (week beginning 28 September 2015)

Session 1: Community in Christian Ethics

Required Reading
- *Character, Choices & Community*, Chapter 4.
Further Optional Reading

Session 2: Morality and Stories

Required Reading
- Character, Choices & Community, Chapter 5.

Further Optional Reading

Week 5 - (week beginning 05 October 2015)

Session 1: Christian Stories and Christian Morality

Required Reading
- Character, Choices & Community, Chapter 6.

Further Optional Reading

Session 2: Conscience in Christian Ethics

Required Reading
- Character, Choices & Community, Chapters 7 and 8.

Further Optional Reading

Week 6 - (week beginning 12 October 2015)

Session 1: Moral Norms

Required Reading
- Character, Choices & Community, Chapter 9.

Further Optional Reading

Session 2: Moral Reasoning

Required Reading
Further Optional Reading


Week 7 - (week beginning 19 October 2015)

Session 1: Sin and Morality

Required Reading

- *Character, Choices & Community*, Chapter 11.

Further Optional Reading


Session 2: Moral Conversion

Required Reading

- *Character, Choices & Community*, Chapter 12.

Further Optional Reading