

GATEWAY SEMINARY

Salt Lake City – New Life Church

L1411-51 Christian Ethics — 2 credit hrs.

June 21st and 22nd (in person) and July 19th (zoom)

Friday (June 21st) 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (MST) and Saturday (June 22nd) 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (MST)

July 19th 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (MST)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the biblical presuppositions and principles of Christian ethics and their application to major social institutions and problems.

COMPETENCIES AND DEGREE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Gateway Seminary is to shape leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world. This course has been designed to enable the acquisition of competencies essential to preparing men and women to serve within that kingdom. Successful completion also satisfies the primary degree objectives directing this course.

1. Essential Leadership Competency (ELC) for this required course.
 - Ethically Grounded: Grasps evangelical convictions to confront moral issues.
2. Degree Objectives (DO) for this required course across all degrees.
 - MDIV DO2: Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the Christian historical, theological, and ethical frameworks commonly held in the believers' church tradition to sustain ministerial leadership to God's glory.
 - MTS DO5: Identify and affirm God's shaping of the student as to calling, ministry giftedness, strengths and growth edges, and personality dynamics.
 - MTE DO2: Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the Christian historical, theological, and ethical frameworks commonly held in the believers' church tradition to sustain ministerial leadership to God's glory.
 - MTE DO3: Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the Christian ethical framework commonly held in the believers' church tradition to sustain ministerial leadership to God's glory.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students should be better able to:

1. Identify the major ethical teachings of the Bible and their application to contemporary ethical issues;
2. Develop and use a biblical approach to ethical decision making;
3. Identify the major ethical and moral issues in the church and in contemporary society for a proper biblical and theological response;
4. Identify ethical positions of the historic Christian church as they relate to certain key issues;
5. Develop biblical ethical convictions and the capacity to articulate them in the exercise of leadership to apply them in the church and in society;
6. Develop Christian moral character and understand its essential importance to the life of Christian disciples and leaders;
7. Identify sources, tools, and information in society that will assist in making correct moral and ethical decisions; and

8. Identify competing ethical positions and responses to biblical positions.

COURSE DELIVERY SYSTEM

This course is a live classroom with remote access and an online component through Gateway Seminary. Students will access some of the course content through Canvas (gs.instructure.com). Enrolled students will be able to login and access this course in Canvas one week prior to the start of the semester. Watch the [Canvas Login Video](#) for help with logging into Canvas for the first time. Once logged in to Canvas, students can click “Help” for 24/7 technical support. For remote access, the professor will send an email with login details for Zoom prior to the first class. See the “Other Information” section at the end of this syllabus for more information on Canvas and Zoom.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Ethics as Worship: The Pursuit of Moral Discipleship by Mark Liederbach and Evan Lenow (P&R Publishing, 2021) 1629952621.

COURSE LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS

Three types of work will be required: (i) class attendance and participation (I define participation as having completed the assigned reading and engaging in class discussion); (ii) a final exam; (iii) and a 10-page (text) research paper on an approved issue relating to applied ethics (e.g., body modification, veganism, recreational marijuana use, death penalty, etc.).

Learning outcomes will be achieved by a combination of class lectures, independent research resulting in a research paper, class discussion, and assigned reading. Please see Course Requirements (below) for due dates and percentages of final grade. A brief description follows:

1. Final Exam

Since you have been informed of the exam dates well in advance, students will usually be denied requests for rescheduling unless special permission is granted from the professor by the first day of class. The final exam will be available online between **8:00 a.m. July 22nd** and **11:59 p.m. July 26th**. The final will be comprised of essay questions pertaining to major topics in the reading as discussed in class.

2. Research Position Paper

Students must submit a research position paper by **11:59 p.m. on July 26th**. This paper must reflect scholarly research and also present a biblical position on an ethical issue. For the purpose of this class, a “biblical position” is defined as a position that is consistent with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. The paper must be 20 pages of text in length and must conform to Seminary guidelines for research papers. The paper must include footnotes and a bibliography of at least 10 scholarly sources. Students must choose a topic relating to Christian ethics and in the course of the paper describe the issue(s), interact with varying positions, and argue for a particular position. Papers lacking a description, interaction, or argument will be considered lacking and graded accordingly. Students are encouraged to discuss their paper topic with the professor before submitting the paper.

3. Reading, Watching, and Class Participation

You are allowed to miss a maximum of one class session of our intensive weekend. Absences beyond this will result in the student **automatically failing** the class. Given the condensed nature of the class, I highly encourage students to avoid or minimize absences and tardiness.

Class participation accounts for 20% of your grade. This means that students come prepared to discuss the material, having completed the assigned reading, and are thoughtfully and respectfully engaged in class discussion.

4. E-Portfolio Reflections:

Complete E-Portfolio reflections online no later than **May 20**.

<https://www.gs.edu/academics/student-success/student-resources/eportfolio/>

A more detailed description of this course requirement can be found below under Mandatory Assessment Activities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following table approximates when we will cover the various readings in class. Handouts for the topics below are found on Canvas, under “Course Documents.” Reading assignments must be completed by the end of the semester.

Date	Topic
June 21 st	Ethics as Worship, Parts One-Two
June 22 nd	Ethics as Worship, Parts Three-Four
July 19 th	Zoom Meeting

GRADING SCALE

Assignment Values

Description	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Final Exam	July 26 th	40%
Research Paper	July 26 th	30%
Class Participation	See above dates	20%
ePortfolio Reflections	July 27 th	10%

Grade Scale

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92	
B+ = 88-89	B = 83-87	B- = 80-82
C+ = 78-79	C = 73-77	C- = 70-72
D+ = 68-69	D = 63-67	D- = 60-62
F = below 60		

Late Work Policy

Students will be marked down an entire letter grade for each day their paper is late. For instance, a paper that would be an A is a C if turned in two days late. No paper is accepted if more than four days late, barring extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances such as a death in the immediate family or serious, unexpected illness.

PLAGIARISM

This seminary has a no tolerance policy on plagiarism. Cite your sources accurately and fully each and

every time. Please do your own work and do not use the work of others without proper citation. Cutting and pasting from the Internet or from other sources is plagiarism. It is expected that all students will do their own work and not steal from others. Plagiarism will be severely penalized and will be reported by the professor to the registrar and academic dean. The following websites define plagiarism and show how to avoid it.

- [Crucial Strategies for Successful Research](#)
- [Gateway Seminary Plagiarism Information](#)
- [Plagiarism.org](#)
- [Is It Plagiarism Yet? Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Gateway Seminary engages in regular assessment of its academic programs. Student participation is essential to this process through the following activities.

1. **CoursEval Assessment** - Each semester a link to a [CoursEval](#) survey for each course taken will appear in the student's [Haven](#) page. Students are required to complete this online evaluation of course/instructor no later than the last scheduled meeting of the class. A summary of results (without student ID) is released to the professor only after grades have been submitted for the course.
2. **ePortfolio Reflection** - All degree-seeking students must reflect on the work completed as part of all required courses by commenting upon the manner in which the course contributed to his/her growth in relation to the Essential Leadership Competencies listed for each required course. A list of course competencies may be found listed under each respective degree ([MDiv](#), [MTS](#), [MAEL](#), [MACC](#), [MMiss](#), [MAIS](#), [DTh](#), [DEL](#)). These reflections must be recorded in the student's ePortfolio.

SEMINARY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CREDIT AND WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

In all Gateway courses, the Seminary assigns a workload of approximately 45 clock hours of academic learning activities per academic credit hour earned. Traditional in-class format normally apportions 15 hours of in-class instruction and 30 hours of instructional exercises to be completed outside of class meetings per credit hour granted. For andragogical reasons, individual courses may adjust the ratio of assignments inside and outside class meeting times.

INFORMATION LITERACY AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Numerous Seminary assignments are designed to enhance your awareness of and ability to use with discernment research materials related to the knowledge and practice of ministry. Gateway Seminary librarians are available to assist you in accomplishing such assignments. They can help you find, access, and evaluate resources, as well as formatting. Consultations may be scheduled at the library circulation desk or requested via email at reference@gs.edu.

Canvas

For information about logging into Canvas, please view the [Canvas Login Video](#). Students have access to 24/7 technical support in Canvas. Click “Help” in Canvas to call or chat with a Canvas technician. You can also use the student guides for videos and tutorials.

[Student Video Guides](#)

[Student Tutorial Guides](#)

If you have trouble with Canvas and were unable to utilize these helps to solve the issue, please contact CanvasIT@gs.edu.

Zoom

Some online courses will have optional live class meetings using the video conferencing software, Zoom. Your professor will indicate in the syllabus if there are live class sessions. Please view the participant guide for help in using this software. [Zoom: Getting Started Tutorials](#).

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