

**Alabama Course of Study
Huntingdon College
Winter 2019 – January 18-19; February 8-9
Course Assignments**

Course: COS 424 – Ethics
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Purpose:

This course introduces the biblical and theological basis for Christian behavior, emphasizing the pastoral skills needed for moral leadership in the congregation and community.

Course objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Articulate a biblical and theological basis for ethical thinking and moral behavior and distinguish major approaches to ethical reasoning.
- Comprehend the relationship between their personal stories, pastoral vocation, local contexts and responsibility as moral leaders.
- Develop a Christian framework for moral reason and action and apply it to the use of power and the setting of boundaries in ministry.
- Demonstrate familiarity with and make use of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church as a resource for ethical reflection and action.

Texts:

Required Texts:

Hays, Richard B. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*. New York: Harper One, 1996. (ISBN 9780060637965)

Jung, Patricia Beattie, and Darryl W. Stephens, eds. *Professional Sexual Ethics: A Holistic Ministry Approach*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013. (ISBN 9780800699437)

Lovin, Robin W. *An Introduction to Christian Ethics: Goals, Duties and Virtues*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011. (ISBN 9780687467365)

Reference:

Social Principles of the UMC 2013-2016. United Methodist Publishing House. (ISBN 9781426766138)

The Book of Resolutions of the UMC 2012. United Methodist Publishing House. (ISBN 9781426757877)

Supplementary:

Guidelines for Written Assignments

The purpose of the following assignments is to guide your critical reading of the texts and to encourage you to analyze the authors' points of view. **PLEASE NOTE: these assignments do not ask for your opinions on the issues.** You will have plenty of opportunity to voice your own views in class. When referring to the author's ideas or quoting the author's words, cite the author by page number in a parenthetical reference, for example (Hays, 100).

Guidelines for Written Assignments

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½" by 11" paper. Font should be Times New Roman and no larger than size 12. Margins are to be 1" on all four sides of each page.
- All papers must include a page number and the last name of the student in either the header or footer of every page. All papers should provide citations for all quoted material.
- You may use MLA, Turabain, APA or Chicago Style. Punctuation should be consistent; clarity of meaning is the primary purpose of punctuation. Edit and retype material as needed and check spelling in a standard dictionary.
- All papers should attempt to eliminate discriminatory language—for example: racism, ageism, sexism, classism, and prejudicial usage concerning handicapping conditions.

TOTAL PAGES ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD RANGE BETWEEN 15 AND 25 PAGES. Be clear and concise.

Pre-Course Assignment Due January 18-19, 2019

Participation and Demonstrated Knowledge of the Hays and Lovin Text Books in Classroom Discussion—40% of Course Grade

- I. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*
 1. Read the text introduction and be prepared to discuss
 - the author's approach to understanding New Testament Ethics by providing specific examples from the introductory material.
 - ways the author's approach, as explained in the introduction, could be applied to your preaching and teaching within your congregational setting.
 - in what ways does the introduction to this text invite your curiosity and encourage you to consider what else this author has to say in the remainder of this text?
 - in what ways does the introduction cause you to be concerned about what the author may have to say in the remainder of the text?
 2. Read Part One, pages 13-153 while you also read again the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the book of Acts. That is a total of 117 chapters from the New Testament. Reading two to three chapters each day will allow you to complete this assignment. Keep a written journal that

to record the following as you again read these gospels and the book of Acts from the New Testament, and be prepared to discuss:

- What do you consider to be the ethics for Christians today from the gospel of Matthew? What does the Hays text tell you?
- What do you consider to be the ethics for Christians today from the gospel of Mark? What does the Hays text tell you?
- What do you consider to be the ethics for Christians today from the gospel of Luke? What does the Hays text tell you?
- What do you consider to be the ethics for Christians today from the gospel of John? What does the Hays text tell you?
- What do you consider to be the ethics for Christians today from the Acts of the Apostles? What does the Hays text tell you?

II. *An Introduction to Christian Ethics: Goals, Duties and Virtues*

Read the preface and Part 1: Christian Ethics of this course text. Use your journal to record what you consider the main points and be prepared to discuss:

- The Origins of Ethics
- The Good Life and The Christian Life
- Variations on the Christian Stance

Mid-Course Written Assignment Due Friday, February 8, 2019

**Send Assignment to revdrtaylor@gmail.com by
noon on February 8
30% of Course Grade**

III. *Professional Sexual Ethics: A Holistic Ministry Approach*

Read the introduction and this entire book then:

1. Briefly and concisely summarize the main points each author makes in the four articles in Part I, Ethical Landscape of Ministry.
2. Briefly and concisely summarize the main points each author makes in the four articles in Part II, Sources of Wisdom.
3. Briefly and concisely summarize the main points each author makes in the seven articles in Part III, Practices of Ministry.
4. Briefly and concisely summarize the main points each author makes in the five articles in Part IV, Pastoral Leadership.

Mid-Course Assignment Due Saturday, February 9, 2019

10% of Course Grade

IV. *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church* can be found at this link:

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/preface>.

The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions. They are a call to faithfulness and are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. The Social Principles are a call to all members of

The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice. (See ¶ 509.)

1. Read the entire document of *The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*.

2. Choose four of the areas from the six areas listed in *The Social Principles of the UMC*: Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The Economical Community, The Political Community and The World Community.

- Using your journal, briefly describe your congregation (size, age range, rural, urban, suburban, income range, formal education level, occupations, etc.) then list the ways the values and the ethics of the four areas you chose match or do not match the values and ethics of your congregation.
- Be prepared to discuss this during this during our class session.

**Course Final Exam
Saturday, February 9
20% of Course Grade**

- V. There will be a written final exam on the afternoon of February 9. The final exam will cover the Hays text and the Lovin text. Fill in the blank, multiple choice questions, and questions that require short written responses will be on the final exam.