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The mission of Genesis is to prepare humble hearts to begin again. Our vision is to empower our graduates to fulfill God-sized dreams according to his purpose.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an overview of Christian ethics and its application to specific moral issues. You will study the six basic ethical views and current issues in social ethics and develop a theological framework for ethical decision-making. The overarching goal of this course is to help you build and understand a basis for ethical decisions and to understand the strengths and weaknesses of alternative views of ethics and morals.

### I. Prerequisites

None

### II. Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Quote from memory Proverbs 8:10-11;
- Identified and describe the six major ethical systems;
- Explain the strengths and weaknesses of the six major ethical systems;
- Contrast ethical views of current moral issues;
- Analyze/criticize the dominant views on both sides of major moral issues;
- Choose and justify an ethical view;
- Analyze and take a position on a variety of moral dilemmas;
- Create a portfolio criticizing six contemporary moral issues.

### III. Required Resources

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Options*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. Print.

Williams, Thaddeus J. *Confronting Justice Without Compromising Truth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Print.

### IV. Recommended Resources

Feeler, Kyle D. *Exploring Christian Ethics: Biblical Foundations for Morality*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006. Print.

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. 3rd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009. Print.

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

**A. Scripture Memorization**

You will be memorizing Proverbs 8:10-11 in this course. God's Word is central to the life of every Christian, guiding and directing decisions, behaviors, values, and vision. Therefore, Genesis requires learners to memorize Scripture throughout their degree programs. Invest time every day to hide God's Word in your heart.

**B. Learning Activities**

You are required to respond to a writing prompt in modules 1-5. Your response must be 200-300 words and thoroughly address the prompt using material from the reading.

In module 6, you will devise and defend your personal ethical views. This will be added to your Portfolio Project.

**C. Book Critique**

You will submit a critical evaluation of Thaddeus Williams' *Confronting Justice Without Compromising Truth*. The Book Critique, which is due at the conclusion of module 3, must be a minimum of 1000 words, and must conform to MLA standards. See "How to Write Book Critiques" in the *Genesis Writer's Manual* for additional help. This assignment is worth 150 points.

**D. Assignment** will vary from one course to another.

**E. Portfolio Project**

Each master's course requires students to create a project that contributes to his or her Ministry Portfolio. A Ministry Portfolio is a usable, functioning body of work that demonstrates a student's leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities.

In this course, you will demonstrate a working knowledge and awareness of views concerning six contemporary moral issues. You will also state and defend your personal ethical views on each issue.

In each module, you will review one of the following six issues: abortion, biomedical issues, civil disobedience, homosexuality, marriage and divorce, and pornography. You will respond to each as follows:

Part 1: Define the issue (100-200 words)

Write one paragraph defining the issue. Give important/pivotal concerning the issue. These are usually polarizing points (e.g., is a fetus a human or not?).

Part 2: Biblical perspective on the issue (200-300 words)

Give a summary of the Biblical/Christian perspective on the issue. Include scripture references where needed.

Part 3: Oppositional perspective (200-300 words)

Summarize the position that is in opposition to the Biblical/Christian perspective.

Part 4: Your viewpoint (200-300 words)

Finally, give your personal viewpoint. Be sure to give support for your views. While your opinion will not be graded, whether or not you support your opinion will be.

Your reading includes one issue per module. We strongly recommend that you complete one issue in your Portfolio Project per module. This way you will not find yourself with a large workload at the conclusion of the course.

## **F. Final Exam**

The Final Exam consists of material from the module presentations and assigned reading. The purpose of the exam is to measure your knowledge of course material.

A Final Exam Review is presented in Module 6 to help prepare you for the test. The exam will be administered after all 6 modules have been completed.

Remember: you will be required to write out your Scripture Memory verses on the Final Exam.