



LOS ANGELES DISTRICT TRAINING CENTER  
Member of the Alliance for Ministry Training

**PHI-4013 – PHILOSOPHY AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS**  
**FALL-WINTER, 2007 SYLLABUS**  
THREE SEMESTER HOURS CREDIT  
KEEP THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR PORTFOLIO

**PROFESSOR**

Peter Lundell, D.Miss.

**PHONE**

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**LOCATION AND DATES**

Walnut Blessing Church of the Nazarene, February 2–3, March 2–3, 2007

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the major moral theories of western philosophy with particular attention given to intellectual, cultural and philosophical influences. The course will include a survey of the philosophical task, the language of philosophical discourse, and treatment of several contemporary moral problems in light of the resources of western philosophy.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The following are competencies for Ordination Course of Study which are achieved by this course:

1. Ability to synthesize, analyze, reason logically for discernment, assessment, and problem solving and live with ambiguity. (CP-10)
2. Ability to analyze the validity of arguments and to identify their presuppositions and consequences. (CP-11)
3. Ability to apply basic understanding of ethical theories to teach and nurture ethical behavior in the Christian community. (CH-1)
4. Ability to discern and make theologically based ethical decisions in the midst of a complex and/or paradoxical context. (CH-2)
5. Ability to teach and model sexual purity. (CH-3)
6. Ability to understand and apply the unique ethical dimensions of spiritual leadership in the church. (CH-4)
7. Ability to apply Christian ethics to the issues of the integrity [sic], specifically as they relate to ministers and laity for authentic Christian faithfulness and public witness. (CH-5)
8. Ability to practice faithful stewardship of personal relations including gender relationships, marriage and family, personal finance, and professional conduct. (CH-12)

**COURSE PROFESSOR**

Peter Lundell, D.Miss., Fuller Theological Seminary, M.Div. 1987, D.Miss, 1995; B.A. Gustavus Adolphus College.

Missionary to Japan, 1987–88; Associate Pastor, Alhambra Church of the Nazarene, 1988–91; Missionary to Japan, 1991–96; Pastor, Walnut Blessing Church of the Nazarene, 1996–Present.

**COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

**REQUIRED**

1. Dunning, H. Ray. *Reflecting the Divine Image*. Chicago, Ill: Intervarsity Press. ISBN 0-8308-1545-7.
2. Trull, Joe E. *Walking in the Way: An Introduction to Christian Ethics*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1997. ISBN: 0805420827.
3. Weist, Walter E. and Smith, Elwyn A. *Ethics in Ministry: A Guide for the Professional*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1990. ISBN 0800623916.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

1. Anderson, J. Kerby. *Moral Dilemma*. Thomas Nelson, 1997. ISBN: 0849914469
2. Birch, Bruce C. and Larry L. Rasmussen. *Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life*. Augsburg Fortress Press, 1989. ISBN: 0806623977

3. Cobb, John B. *Matters of Life and Death*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1991. ISBN: 0664251692
4. Koop, C. Everett and Johnson, Timothy. *Let's Talk: An Honest Conversation on Critical Issues – Abortion, Euthanasia, AIDS, Health Care*. Zondervan Press, 1992. ISBN: 0310597811
5. Stott, John. *Decisive Issues Facing Christians Today*. Fleming H. Revell Company, 1996. ISBN: 0800753127
6. Tillman, William M., Jr., ed. *Understanding Christian Ethics*. Broadman Press, 1988. ISBN: 0805461299

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation in interacting with the content of the textbooks and working through ethical dilemmas. This is critical to your success and to the success of the class. You must read the textbooks and interact.
2. Personal reflection paper on an ethical issue or problem you face or deal with personally (anything you write will be kept in strict confidence). Describe the struggle or problem. Why is it worth the effort to deal with it? What has helped you? What does the Bible say, and how do you apply it? What is your prognosis for the future?
3. With the methods learned, lead a class discussion on working through an ethical dilemma.
4. Final essay exam on why living and working by high ethical standards is essential to ministry. Give clear examples in at least three different areas (e.g., sexuality, finances/economics, politics, medicine, gender, race, truthfulness, leadership).
5. Major paper on an ethical dilemma, using the methods learned in class. After describing the dilemma, identify 1)the moral issues, 2)the facts, 3)questions about the facts, 4)relevant biblical passages and their application, 5)relevant laws or cultural expectations, 6)ethical principles, 7)results of action taken, and 8)be able to articulate both sides of the issue and 9)come to a reasoned conclusion.

Class participation.....	30 %
Personal reflection paper.....	15 %
Lead a class discussion.....	10 %
Final essay exam.....	20 %
Major paper.....	<u>25 %</u>
	100 %

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### February

**2 — 12:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Course Introduction

Lecture and discussion

*Walking in the Way*, chs. 1–2

Case studies

*Ethics in Ministry*, chs. 1–5

**3 — 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Lecture and discussion

*Walking in the Way*, chs. 3–5

Case studies

*Ethics in Ministry*, chs. 6–10

### **Lecture and Discussion Themes:**

Moral authority of the Bible  
 Character  
 Discernment  
 Courage  
 Commitment  
 Forgiveness and compassion  
 Integrity and truthfulness  
 Grace and responsibility

### **Including these Topics:**

Sexuality  
 Pornography  
 Homosexuality  
 Materialism and consumerism  
 Finances and economics  
 Politics  
 Abortion  
 Racism  
 Poverty  
 Leadership  
 Tolerance  
 Violence and punishment  
 Medicine and genetics  
 Technology  
 Postmodern morality

## **March**

**2 — 12:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

***Personal reflection paper due***

Lecture and discussion

*Walking in the Way, chs. 6–8*

Case studies

*Reflecting the Divine Image, chs. 1–7*

**3 — 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Lecture and discussion

*Walking in the Way, chs. 9–10*

***Lead class discussion on case studies***

*Reflecting the Divine Image, chs. 8–13*

***Final essay exam***

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***Major paper due by March 10.*** You may e-mail this as an attachment.