Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should <u>not</u> be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

ETHC 324
APPLIED ETHICS IN PUBLIC POLICY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of the course is to prepare the Christian public policy specialist to maneuver intellectually in the public square. This course examines the ethical dimensions of policy problems in a manner that addresses the tension between secular society and the traditional Christian faith. It explains the moral foundations of institutions and how conceptions of liberal society seek to define them. The course will equip the student to analyze major secular moral theories employed in policy arguments and to cogently represent the Christian conscience on important policy issues. It will discuss the proper uses of the Bible in formulating policy arguments and the role of science in policy deliberation. In addition, it will illuminate the way in which Christian beliefs may become involved in policy deliberation.

RATIONALE

The application of an ethical, Biblical worldview requires an understanding of the actual context in which ethics occur. This course focuses on one such context—the public policy arena—and all that comes with it. The student will understand the challenges of the political arena, and how to make ethical policy decisions.

I. **PREREQUISITE**

   For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. **REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

   Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

   A.   Computer with basic audio/video output equipment

   B.   Internet access (broadband recommended)

   C.   Blackboard recommended browsers

   D.   Microsoft Office

IV.   **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A.   Examine how conceptions of the liberal society influence the ethical dimension of policy, with particular focus on the tension between Christianity and political Liberalism.

B.   Develop analytical skills for assessing and comparing how the most important contemporary, secular, ethical theories interact with public policy analysis and development.

C.   Explain a reasonable approach to rational policy analysis that can reasonably be called moral or ethical assessment (i.e. ethical public policy analysis).

D.   Formulate reasonable ethical positions on public policy that give due consideration to the historical Christian conscience.

E.   Defend the employment of Christian commitments (metaphysics) in conducting ethical public policy analyses on a representative array of policy issues.

V.   **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A.   Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

B.   Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C.   Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 450–500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and contain at least 3 references from required readings and at least 2 biblical integrations. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words, and contain at least 1 reference and a biblical integration.

D.   Focused Ethical Policy Analyses (3)

For each essay, the student will write a 750–1000-word analysis-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on a topic provided by the instructor. Each paper must include at least 6 scholarly references from the required reading and 3 biblical references.

E.   Ethical Public Policy Analysis

The student will write a 1,500–1,750-word analysis-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on a topic provided by the instructor. The paper must include at least 6 scholarly references from the required reading and 3 biblical references.

VI. **COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

    A.   Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Focused Ethical Policy Analysis (3 at 150 pts ea)	450
Ethical Public Policy Analysis (full)	150
Total	1010

    B.   Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

    C.   Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy or the Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures.

COURSE SCHEDULE

ETHC 324

Textbooks: Mitchell, *Why Social Policy Cannot Be Morally Neutral* (1989).
Monsma, *Healing for a Broken World: Christian Perspectives on Public Policy* (2008).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Monsma: ch. 1￼ 4 presentations￼ 4 websites	Course Requirements Checklist￼ Class Introductions￼ DB Forum 1	10￼ 0￼ 100
2	Monsma: ch. 6￼ 4 presentations￼ 3 websites	Essay 1	150
3	2 presentations￼ 1 website￼ 1 PDF	DB Forum 2	100
4	Monsma: chs. 2–5￼ 3 presentations￼ 1 website	Essay 2	150
5	Mitchell: entire book￼ Monsma: ch. 10￼ 3 presentations￼ 1 website	DB Forum 3	100
6	Monsma: chs. 11–12￼ 6 presentations￼ 4 websites	Essay 3	150
7	Monsma: chs. 8–9￼ 3 presentations￼ 1 website	DB Forum 4	100
8	Monsma: ch. 7￼ 6 presentations￼ 4 websites	Ethical Public Policy Analysis	150
		TOTAL	1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.