

**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 not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **THEO 650**

#### **ETHICS AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the methodology and practice of biblical ethics as applied to such issues as abortion, euthanasia, in-vitro fertilization, capital punishment, government, war, race relations, marriage, divorce, personal and ecclesiastical separation, and worldly amusements.

#### **RATIONALE**

Christian leaders today face ethical challenges and questions that could not have been imagined even a few years ago. Congregations look to their leadership for informed guidance on a host of ethical issues. It is important for ministers in every area of church life to be able to provide accurate, biblically sound, and informative answers on a variety of ethical matters, in their teaching and preaching, and in one-on-one situations.

#### **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 Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:  
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

**IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Distinguish between different kinds of ethical decision making systems.
- B. Evaluate ethical systems in light of the Bible.
- C. Apply biblical ethical teachings to modern ethical issues.
- D. Discuss ethical issues in ways that facilitate understanding of them.
- E. Identify practical steps for developing a Christian lifestyle based on a biblical understanding of ethics.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Discussion Board forums (4)

Students will participate in four discussion board forums. Topics will be drawn from the reading assignments. Students will post an original thread of 400 words or more. In their original thread, students are expected to use course material, scriptural references, and extra-course material to substantiate the thesis of their post. They must reply to at least two peers' threads in 200 words or more. Threads should be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday and replies by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned modules/weeks. (L/O C, D, E)

- C. Book Critique

Students will review and critique *Reviving Evangelical Ethics*. The student should discuss the author's goal and intended audience for the book, then briefly summarize the contents of each chapter, and the strengths and weaknesses of each. The review should include some reflection on how these three ethical systems fall short of a fully biblical ethic and on if and how the author helps professional ministers develop a more fully biblical approach to ethics. The review needs to be at least 1800 words but not more than 2200 words long. It must be in Turabian format, using the highest quality formal academic English and show evidence of careful revision, proofreading, and attention to detail. This assignment will be due at 11:59 PM (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 5. (L/O A, B)

## D. Paper

Students will write a research paper on a selected topic (choose from the topic list provided in Course Content, and narrow the topic down as necessary). The paper must be 3500-5000 words long, and use the Bible appropriately, along with at least 10 additional high quality sources. Church websites are not appropriate for this assignment and Journal Articles must be used only sparingly (no more than two). Websites of official organizations related to the topic, or government agencies and educational institutions, (such as abortion opponent groups, and advocates) may be used for factual information and statistics. Sensational type advocacy sites, sites that polemicize on the matter, must be avoided). Course texts should not be used in this assignment. The paper must follow Turabian and School of Divinity guidelines as to formatting, style, grammar, and graduate quality of work.

The paper will be produced in three stages, the topic and thesis, then the full bibliography, the abstract and the outline, and then the final paper (at least 10 sources used). Due the third, sixth, and seventh modules of the course. (L/O C, D, E).

## E. Exams (4)

Each exam will consist of 30 true/false and multiple choice type questions and one essay type question. (The objective questions will be worth 1.5 points each and the essay question will be worth 5 points). Students will have two hours to finish each open-book/open-notes exam. On many questions students will have to choose the best answer from a series of possible answers. Exams will cover the reading assignments and presentations from the previous two weeks. Each exam is due by 11:59 PM (ET) on Sunday of the assigned module/week. (L/O A, B, C, D, E)

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

## A. Points

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Course Requirements Checklist            | 10          |
| Discussion Board forums (4 at 75 pts ea) | 300         |
| Book Critique                            | 150         |
| Paper                                    |             |
| Part One                                 | 50          |
| Part Two                                 | 125         |
| Part Three (Final)                       | 175         |
| Exams (4 at 50 pts ea)                   | 200         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1010</b> |

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859  
C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739  
D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and the book critique may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should must use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://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](mailto: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***

### **THEO 650**

Textbooks: Reuschling, *Reviving Evangelical Ethics* (2008).  
 McQuilkin, Robert, and Paul Copan. *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics* (2013).  
 Platt, David. *Counter Culture* (2015).

| <b>WEEK/<br/>MODULE</b> | <b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>  | <b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>  | <b>PTS</b>      |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Introduction and Parts I, and II (Ch 1-4)<br>1 Presentation   | Course Requirements Checklist<br>Class Introductions<br>DB Forum 1    | 10<br>0<br>75   |
| <b>2</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Parts III and IV (Ch. 5-9)<br>3 Presentations   | Exam 1  | 50              |
| <b>3</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Part V (Ch 10-11)<br>Reuschling, "Introduction" and Chapters 1-2  | Paper topic, Thesis, and Preliminary Bibliography<br>DB Forum 2       | 50<br>75        |
| <b>4</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Part VI (Ch 12-13)<br>Platt Ch 1<br>Reuschling Chapters 3-4   | Exam 2  | 50              |
| <b>5</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Part VII<br>Platt Ch 5-6<br>Reuschling, Chapter 5 and "Conclusion"<br>2 Presentations                         | Book Critique<br>DB Forum 3   | 150<br>75       |
| <b>6</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Part VIII<br>Platt Ch 3-4, 7, 8<br>3 Presentations<br>Articles: Family Obligations after a Couple are Married | Paper Outline, Abstract and Full Bibliography<br>Exam 3<br>DB Forum 4 | 125<br>50<br>75 |
| <b>7</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Part IX<br>Platt Ch. 2  | Paper Final (Part Three)  | 175             |
| <b>8</b>                | McQuilken and Copan Parts X and XI<br>Platt 9-10<br>1 Presentation  | Exam 4  | 50              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            |   |   | <b>1010</b>     |

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.