Course Reading
Students should purchase the following books:
- Christian Ethics: An Essential Guide by Robin Lovin
- The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith by Marcus Borg
- Moral Man and Immoral Society by Reinhold Niebuhr
- Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter by Traci C. West

**Course Assignments**
- One paper based on course material
- One case study analysis
- One written moral argument from one perspective on ethics as the center of ethics

All other readings will be available on SONISWEB.

**Introduction to Christian Ethics**  (January 24 & February 21)
What is Ethics?
Since everyone is in some sense a moral agent engaged in ethical reflection and action, how does informal, lived ethics differ from ethics as an academic discipline? How is the academic discipline of ethics helpful to moral life?
What makes Christian ethics Christian?
What are the connections between Christian ethics and Christian theology, and other theological disciplines?
Who 'does' Christian Ethics?
What are the Basic Building Blocks of Christian Ethics?

**Reading**
Robin Lovin, Christian Ethics: An Essential Guide

**Some of the Voices in the Conversation** (March 7 & 28)
Since the area of Christian ethics is varied and vast in terms of the identities of who “does” Christian ethics, the methods they use, and the issues they address, it is important to become familiar with some of the specific voices and issues in the field. Each has something to contribute to the wider conversation.

**Readings**
Marcus Borg, The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith
Traci West, Disruptive Christian Ethics, When Racism and Women’s Lives Matter
Leonardo Boff  - chapter to be distributed
Stanley Hauerwas - article to be distributed
Larry Rasmussen - to be distributed
Assignment for this section of the course: do all the reading. Choose one perspective and be ready to argue for it as the core of Christian ethics.

**Christian Relations with People of Other Faiths (April 18)**

A long-standing and often contentious issue in Christianity is how Christians should relate to peoples of other faiths. This question has emerged as a central moral issue key to the nature of Christianity as a whole in the 21st century, and also key to ministry in local contexts, as families and individuals find themselves in contexts and relationships that are interfaith.

Finally, it is important to consider the question of some of the ways in which Christian Ethics – through the thought and actions of individual Christians and Christian groups - has contributed (not always positively) to the larger world.

**Readings**

- David Hollinger, *After Cloven Tongues of Fire: Protestant Liberalism in Modern American History*
  2 chapters to be distributed

- Pope John Paul VI, “Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions – Nostra Aetate”

- Wesley Ariarajah, *Your God, My God, Our God: Rethinking Christian Theology for Religious Plurality*

- Declaration “Dominus Iesus” on the Unicity and Salvific Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church.