



ETHC6302 MINISTERIAL ETHICS
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Spring 2023; Tues/Thurs, 8:00-9:20am (FLEX)

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This course is a study of the personal and professional ethics required of church ministers, religious counselors, and other “ministerial professionals,” as well as the ethical decisions unique to these roles. Particular emphasis is given to the minister’s professional code of ethics, structure of practice, and personal character.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling Christian character and communicating ethical truth, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. **Identify** and **understand** the key ethical issues confronting ministers and ministries.
2. Be able to **apply** biblical and ethical truth to the practice of ministry and to the character and moral development of ministers.
3. Be able to **communicate** Christian ethical and moral truths competently and convincingly.

Primary Textbooks

Hastings, W. Ross. *Pastoral Ethics: Moral Formation as Life in the Trinity*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2022.

Trull, Joe E., and R. Robert Creech. *Ethics for Christian Ministry: Moral Formation for 21st-Century Leaders*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.

Waters, Brent. *Common Callings and Ordinary Virtues: Christian Ethics for Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022.

Trull & Creech Reading Report (10% of Grade; DUE: May 9, 2023)

Responsibilities: The Trull-Creech text should be read on time, according to the course schedule. For each chapter, students will type a one-paragraph directed summary (see below). At the end of the course, each student will submit a reading report to Canvas according to the following guidelines:

- Record your name, the name of the book, and the percentage of the book read.
- For each chapter, in paragraph form, include the following:
 - What was the main thesis of the chapter?
 - Describe one aspect of the chapter that you found helpful
 - If you did not read a chapter, list the chapter and leave blank the space designated for the summary

Final Exam Essay (30% of Final Grade; Due: May 9, 2023)

Responsibilities: Students will write a letter/essay in lieu of an objective exam and submit the letter/essay to Canvas.

Using the following guidelines, the letter/essay will test the student's understanding of and ability to integrate and apply the concepts examined during the course. The essay will be 4-6 single-spaced typed pages in Times-New Roman 12. On common issues of form and style, the student will follow the latest edition of Turabian.

You are a mentor to a person following a ministerial call similar to yours (If possible, think of someone you really know and, perhaps, mentor). Communicate the following to that person in the form of a letter:

- i. The nature of the call to ministry
- ii. The importance of a Christian morality for living and working as one who is called to ministry
- iii. Ethical characteristics that are not only essential for a Christian morality but also ought to be modeled particularly by those in ministry. Consider not only the specific ethical characteristics and actions but also why it is important that ministers model these characteristics and actions.
- iv. Dangers to avoid that one in ministry can expect and for which one ought to prepare. Give counsel on how to prepare for these dangers/temptations.
- v. End with a reminder that the call to ministry is a privilege. Encourage the person to be faithful.

Hints: Refer appropriately to Scripture. You would be wise to use your personal code of ministerial ethics as a source of content. Make it personal, as a letter should be.

Evaluation of Grade

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Hastings Outline	20%	Due: February 16
<input type="checkbox"/> Waters Outline	20%	Due: March 23
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Code of Ministerial Ethics	20%	Due: April 13
<input type="checkbox"/> Trull and Creech Reading Report	10%	Due: May 9
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Exam Essay	30%	Due: May 9

Helpful Information

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through uploading notes or identifying a code word after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Attendance Policy

Traditional and NOLA2U Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Miscellaneous Course Policies

Participation when in class live with preparation and attentiveness are crucial not only to your own success in the class, but to those who sit around you. Each student has a positive contribution to make to the class. Use of laptop computers for note taking is fine, but playing computer games or doing work not associated with the class is not appreciated and is strictly prohibited. We will be dealing with some complex issues, and we need your undivided attention.

Appropriate Conduct in Class is especially important so that all students can have a chance to hear and participate meaningfully in class discussions. Holding private conversations in class or other rude behavior is not appreciated. In an ethics class in which moral issues arise about which some of us will disagree, it is essential to treat each other with Christian charity and kindness. Rude behavior disrespectful of the instructor or other students will not be tolerated in class.

Late Work will be immediately penalized **7 points**, followed by an additional 7 points per week, unless **prior permission** is sought and a **legitimate reason** warrants lateness. **Late work should include the date due and the day delivered on the cover page.**

Cell Phone and Computer Usage: The official seminary policy as written in the Student Handbook is as follows: The student is to demonstrate appropriate classroom behavior at all times. This includes the usage of cell phones and computers during class time. The opportunity for students to use these items within the classroom is contingent upon their proper usage. Students are also reminded that phones are to be silenced during the class and other Seminary functions. Proper usage includes note taking and tasks specifically assigned by the professor. Improper utilization includes all other usages such as surfing the Internet, playing games, texting, and emailing. If a student is engaged in improper usage of a cell phone or computer during a class, the professor has the right to prohibit the student from bringing the item to subsequent class meetings.

Spring 2023; Tues/Thurs, 8:00-9:20pm (FLEX)

Date	Topics for Class	Assignments
1-17	Introductions Syllabus Issues	Text: TC: Trull and Creech Text assignments listed by chapters
1-19	Ministry: Profession or Vocation?	TC: 1
1-24	Setting Ministerial Ethics in context—Christian and Biblical Why a distinctive concentration?	TC: 2
1-26		
1-31	Integrity in Personal Life and Spiritual Formation	TC: 3; Hastings 12
2-2		
2-7		
2-9	Sabbath for the Minister	Hastings, 6
2-14	Integrity in Ministry	TC: 4
2-16	Book Discussion	Due: Hastings Outline
2-21	MARDI GRAS: OFFICES CLOSES AND NO CLASSES	
2-23		TC: 5
2-28	Ethics and Evangelism	
3-2	Issues of sexual impropriety in the ministry: Protecting the Integrity of the minister and protecting the church/ministry	TC: 7; appendix A; Hastings 9
3-7		
3-9		
3-14	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
3-21	Church Discipline and Restoration	
3-23	Book Discussion	Due: Waters Outline
3-28	The Minister and Speaking to and about the Public	TC: 6; Hastings 11
3-30		
4-4	Personal Code of Ministerial Ethics	TC: 8; related appendices
4-6		
4-11	Open Topic	
4-13	Discuss Personal Code Discussion	DUE: Personal Code of Ministerial Ethics
4-18	Issues of Ordination and Ministry: Men, Women and God	
4-20		
4-25		
4-27	Open Topic	
5-2	Open Topic	
5-9	Final Exam Scheduled for 8:00-10:00am DUE: Final Exam Essay DUE: Trull & Creech Reading Report	

Select Bibliography

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