Christian Social Ethics in the Anglican Tradition
The School for Deacons
Instructor: The Rev. Daniel London

Course Description: This course will equip students with the methods and resources for making ethical decisions, informed by the Anglican moral tradition and a general understanding of Christian Social Ethics. They will learn how to analyze situations and case studies by applying major ethical methods, seeking wisdom from the Anglican tradition, engaging personal experience, and consulting outside traditions.

Course Objectives: Students who successfully conclude this course will be able to

- Articulate a general understanding of Christian social ethics and a particular understanding of ethics from the Anglican perspective
- Identify the sources, norms, characteristics, and key figures of the Anglican moral tradition
- Analyze ethical case studies by applying major methods of ethical analysis (teleology, deontology, and areteology)
- Attain a working knowledge of an outside moral tradition (other than the Anglican tradition)
- Engage responsibly with ethical issues such as poverty, racism, violence, ecology, and sexuality

Course Texts:
- Victor Lee Austin, Christian Ethics: Guide for the Perplexed
- Darrell J. Fasching & Dell Dechant, Comparative Religious Ethics: A Narrative Approach
- Walter Wink, Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way

Written Assignments:
- Summary papers of Anglican Moral Tradition and outside tradition (2 - 3 pages)
- 4 Ethical Analyses of Case Studies (3 -4 pages)

Week 1: Discern Ethical Method(s) (Aug 27)

Reading due:
Austin, Christian Ethics, Ch. 1 – 3
Fasching & Dechant, Comparative Religious Ethics, Intro and Ch.1

Class:
(1 – 2:30 PM)
- Introductions
- Class Covenant
- Introduction to Course
Week 2: One Narrative among Many (Sept 17)

Reading due:
Review Austin, *Christian Ethics*, Ch. 2
Assigned readings from Fasching and Dechant, *Comparative Religious Ethics*, Chs 3 - 8

Suggested Reading:

Class:
(1 – 2:30 PM)
- Discern Method II
  - Masters of Suspicion: Freud, Marx, Nietzsche
  - Self-implicating nature of spirituality and ethics
  - Anglican moral tradition
  - Other moral traditions

(2:45 – 4 PM)
- Present summaries of outside faith tradition
- Discuss readings

Due:
- Summary of key figures, themes, strengths and weaknesses of Anglican Moral Tradition
- Summary of key figures, themes, strengths and weaknesses of outside tradition (1- 2 p. each)

Week 3: The Third Way: (Non)Violence (Oct 8)

Reading:
Austin, *Christian Ethics*, Ch 4
Fasching and Dechant, *Comparative Religious Ethics*, Ch 2
Wink, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way* Chs 1, 2, 3 and 5
Case Study: Vietnam’s Legacies

Suggested Readings:
Wink, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way* Chs 4, 6
Due: Analysis of Case Study ("Vietnam's Legacies")

Class:
(1 – 2:30 PM)
-Mimetic Theory
-Creative Non-Violence
-Justice

(2:45 – 4 PM)
-Share analysis of case study
-Discuss readings

Week 4: Medical Ethics: Abortion (Oct 29)

Case Study: Matter of Life or Death
Austin, Christian Ethics, Ch 7
Peter Singer, Taking Life: The Embryo and the Fetus, from Writings on an Ethical Life

Class:
(1 – 2:30 PM)
-Share analysis of case study
-Discuss readings

(2:45 – 4 PM)
-Theological Virtues
-Introduction to Feminist Ethics

Due: Analysis of Case Study ("Matter of Life or Death")

Week 5: Creation Care: Ecology (Nov 19)

Reading:
Austin, Christian Ethics, Ch 7
Fasching & Dechant, Comparative Religious Ethics, Ch 10
Case Study: Oil and the Caribou People

Suggested Readings:
Catherine Keller, On the Mystery, Ch 3
Pope Francis Laudato Si

Due: Analysis of Case Study ("Oil and Caribou People")
Week 6: Ethics on the Streets: Poverty and Racism (Dec 10)

Reading:

Austin, *Christian Ethics*, Ch. 5 – 6
Case Study: “Homelessness: The How and Why of Caring”

Suggested Readings:

Policy on Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is the presentation of another’s ideas, methods, research or words without proper acknowledgment. It runs the gamut from failing to cite a reference (sloppy scholarship) to passing off another’s work as one’s own. It includes close paraphrasing as well as lifting of entire lines nearly verbatim without acknowledgment. As the effects of the plagiarism will be the same regardless of intent, intent will not be construed as essential to the act, although it may be considered in determining whether the charge of plagiarism should be pursued or what the penalty may be.