

THEO 204: Introduction to Christian Ethics
Final Exam Preparation Guide
Winter 2016
Exam weight: 30% (of total grade)

Part 1 – Multiple Choice (15 points):

There will be 15 multiple choice questions. Study the main ideas and key arguments from the readings and key points highlighted in the lectures to prepare for the multiple choice questions in the exam. Your lecture notes and the ppt slides provided on Moodle should help you focus on what is important in each reading. When answering the multiple choice questions, always choose *the best* answer (in some cases there might seem to be a couple of possible answers, but one should be recognized as better than all others).

Immediately below are some study questions and hints to help you focus your preparation for the multiple choice questions (which will also help you prepare for the essay questions listed below):

- Pay attention to definitions (especially of topics or issues that were discussed at length or given special emphasis in the lectures).
- Evangelicalism
 - What drives evangelicalism as a powerful global movement?
 - What about evangelicalism is relevant to Christian ethics (especially if one thinks of evangelicalism as a global movement)?
 - How do the primary evangelical virtues (faith, hope and love) factor into Christian ethics?
- Christianity & Human Rights
 - What is the paradox of human rights that Witte uncovers?
 - What are Witte's main theses in relation to religion and human rights?
 - What important historical investments has Christianity made into the idea of human rights?
 - How do Christian scholars (those discussed in relation to this topic) differ in their understanding of the relationship between Christianity and human rights?
- Feminism → What characteristics mark the relationship between Christianity and gender as one looks with Cahill to the biblical text, the historical tradition and contemporary circumstances?
- Injustice & Liberation
 - What are important elements of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s refusal of injustice and the nonviolent movement he led against it?
 - What are the main characteristics of Liberation Theology?
- Globalization

- What does the globalization of Christian ethics entail for Stackhouse?
- How do different ethical approaches fit together in the context of globalization according to Stackhouse?
- Sexual Ethics
 - What, according to the lecture on sexual ethics, is the key theme to this issue? (*HINT: you should be able to discuss chastity in terms of biblical text and theological tradition*)
 - What problems does Woodhead associate with limiting the context of sex to the individual (or even a couple) and their personal pleasure?
- Debating Marriage
 - What arguments are there *for* same-sex marriage (*HINT: pay close attention to Nussbaum's argument*)?
 - What arguments are there *against* same-sex marriage (*HINT: pay close attention to Novak's response to Nussbaum*)?
 - What is the legitimate role of the state with regard to the institution of marriage?
- Abortion
 - What are the main arguments *for* and *against* the legal practice of abortion?
 - What types of questions are important to debate over abortion (*HINT: Nussbaum, Banner and Hauerwas all articulate the main questions differently, so be able to distinguish between them*)?
 - Why is abortion arguably a religious issue?
- Physician-assisted Suicide / Dying → Why is physician-assisted suicide / dying more than a debate about the death of any individual?
- The Environment
 - How was Christianity historically implicated in the global ecological crisis?
 - What uncertainties does Pope Francis associate with the current ecological crisis?
 - How do human beings factor into concerns about the environment?
- NOTE: If the instructor emphasized an issue in class (whether verbally or through ppt notes), it is probably a good idea for the students to pay attention to that issue.

Part 2 – Essay question (15 points):

Instructions: Select and respond to one of the following two essay questions [**NOTE: There are currently three questions listed below, but only two of these three will show up on the final**]. While your essay should be approximately 1,000 words in length, please concern yourself more with the quality of your writing than the quantity. There are two main components of its quality to consider. One is style: please double-space your essay; include a very brief introduction and conclusion; distinguish between key points by dividing your essay into clear

and separate paragraphs. The other is content: articulate your main ideas and arguments clearly; include references to a number of sources (3-4 should suffice); demonstrate the ability to analyze the sources you include (identify strengths and weaknesses in the arguments). This essay is your chance to demonstrate mastery over the subject and the ability to communicate your ideas clearly.

1. Defend or critique the following thesis: *Christian* ethics is an unnecessary field of inquiry. Another way of stating this essay question might be: Is it important to do ethics from a Christian perspective? Your answer should take a clear position on the issue – either for or against the thesis. Drawing on course material, defend your answer through critical analysis and argumentation. Address potential challenges to your position as well.
2. Discuss what, in your opinion, is the most important issue facing Christian ethics today. State the issue clearly and provide evidence to support your claim (i.e., why is this issue so important today). Confront at least two challenges to your claim (i.e., two reasons why someone might view the issue you select to be of lesser significance). If you have space, suggest how you think this issue might best be resolved.
3. Articulate 3-4 principles that you believe to be key pillars for Christian moral discourse today. These may be principles you draw directly from a reading or lecture, or they may be principles that you have conceived on your own. Regardless, support each one with argumentation and engagement with course material. Demonstrate an awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of each principle.

Please note: Aside from the instructions given above, you have extreme autonomy in how you answer the essay question. However, be particularly concerned to demonstrate mastery over the course material (readings and lectures). You will not do well on the essay without demonstrating a strong knowledge of course material and an ability to integrate it into your thought.