



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYT3925H/WYT6925H
Course Name: Ethics as Theology
Class Location: Wycliffe College
Class Times:

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Oliver O'Donovan	Teaching Assistant:
E-mail:	oliver.odonovan@ed.ac.uk	E-mail:
Office Hours:		

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

Successful completion of Systematic Theology I and II.

Course Description

This course explores Christian Ethics as a discipline reflecting theologically upon the dynamic of moral thought, and uses the theological virtues of faith, love and hope as a prism through which to approach its material. The aim of the course is to enhance students' abilities in situating moral categories and argument within a theological context, drawing discerningly on resources in the tradition in moral enquiry, reflecting theologically upon the place of moral thinking in relation to the being and work of God. Themes with which the class will engage include the self as agent, the nature of moral knowledge, the bearing of time, past, present and future, on the exercise of practical reason.

Course Methodology

The class will meet for eight three-hour seminars, each of which will include: (i) discussion of prepared reading from Professor O'Donovan's trilogy *Ethics as Theology* (*Self, World and Time*, 2013; *Finding & Seeking*, 2014; *Entering into Rest*, 2017); (ii) discussion of prepared reading either from a text in the classical and modern tradition or from Scripture.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- Oliver O'Donovan, *Self, World, and Time: Ethics as Theology, Volume 1* (Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans, 2013)

- Oliver O'Donovan, *Finding and Seeking: Ethics as Theology, Volume 2* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014)
- Oliver O'Donovan, *Entering into Rest: Ethics as Theology, Volume 3* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017)

Class Schedule

Ethics as Theology should be read prior to the start of the course. All other readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned.

Class 1 (October 3): *Self, World & Time*, chs. 1,2,3: Moral Thought

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship* part 1.

Class 2 (October 4): *Self, World & Time*, chs. 4,5,6: Theology & Ethics

Hans Urs von Balthasar, "Nine Propositions on Christian Ethics" [in J. Ratzinger et al., *Principles of Christian Morality*, tr. G. Harrison, 1986].

Class 3 (October 6): *Finding & Seeking*, chs. 1,2,3: Faith

James 1
Galatians 5

Class 4 (October 10): *Finding & Seeking*, chs. 4,5,6: Love

Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, book 1 [tr. R.P.H. Greene, 1986]

Class 5 (October 11): *Finding & Seeking*, chs. 7,8,9: Hope

Romans 8

Class 6 (October 13) *Entering into Rest*, chs. 1,2,3: The Ends of Action

Augustine, *City of God*, book 19 [Of English translations Bettenson (Penguin, 1972) is the most accessible, though not the most accurate; Dyson (Cambridge, 1998) and Greene (Loeb 1960) are serviceable. OMTO'D's own translation will be made available.].

Class 7 (October 20): *Entering into Rest*, chs. 4,5,6: Sanctification, Work and Friendship

Martin Luther, *Two Kinds of Righteousness* [Luther's Works, vol. 31].

Class 8 (October 31) *Entering into Rest*, chs. 7,8: Suffering and Meaning

John 7:1-52, 8:12-59

Evaluation

Requirements

Course papers: A list of topics, together with recommendations for further reading, will be made available. Course-members will be invited to choose one of these for the subject of a written paper, and to discuss their plans for treating it. Topics will be of a thematic type, encouraging the exploration of a question and argument towards a conclusion, rather than simply historical or descriptive, but they may involve the exposition of texts. The deadline for submission of papers will be ***. The length will be approximately up to 10 pages for basic degree students and up to 20 pages for advanced degree students. Basic Degree students

will be expected to make good use of the material prepared for the class, as may be appropriate, while Advanced Degree students will be expected to read further and to use their further reading in the paper. Credit will be given for:

- the interest of the discussion;
- the clarity and accuracy of the arguments;
- the intelligent use of texts to enrich the discussion;
- attention to theological and philosophical issues in the argument
- writing and presentational skills

Assignment weights:

Class participation	20%.
Paper	80%

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a

mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar's office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), which is available at Crux Books.

Course Evaluations. At the end of the course students are expected to complete a course evaluation. The evaluation is done online and instructions will be contained in an e-mail message that will be sent out by the Wycliffe College registrar.

Bibliography

List here any bibliographic resources that will be helpful to students, both within the course and for further study.