



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	ETHICS & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS (ANGLICAN)
UNIT CODE	C74053
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	C
PREREQUISITE/S	C51013/C73113 Introducing Theology
INCOMPATIBLES	C52053 Ethics & Contemporary Problems (Anglican) – undergraduate
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13 week semester or as intensive 35 hours contact and 95 hours study time.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Every second year
PREPARED BY	Rev Dr Don Saines
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr Don Saines
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr Don Saines
DATE PREPARED	16 April 2005
DATE REVISED	8 June 2006

Rationale

This unit explores ethics from an ecumenical perspective with a focus on contemporary issues. For Anglicans within this unit it will be evident that ethics and moral theology share some similarities with both protestant and catholic approaches, though it also has a particular character of its own, the *via media*. While drawing from the insights of the English Reformation idea of “a lively faith” this unit outlines the ways in which Anglican ethical perspective and moral living arise from a concern about the way we as human beings and as Christians live in community. The Anglican tradition of moral living also draws on the central Christian doctrines held in common with Catholic theology: the Incarnation and Creation. This has created lively discussion within Anglicanism, at times certain ‘pragmatism,’ a belief in a “liberty of informed judgement” but also a shared common perspective that acknowledges “‘the same underlying values’ with Roman Catholics and Protestant Churches despite there being differences of teaching on particular moral issues.”¹ In recent discussion Christian ethicists across the denominations have drawn upon the key categories of narrative, tradition and of the church as a moral community. We also see how these perspectives are affecting Anglican moral theology.

¹ ARCIC II, 1994, *Life in Christ: Morals, Communion and the Church*, Preface.

Consisting of three parts the unit establishes parameters by which Anglicans have grounded their sense of a lively faith by acknowledging and drawing from the biblical tradition with some acknowledgement of wider philosophical traditions. The third part of the unit focusses on particular contemporary issues and concerns: politics, economics, environment, medicine and sexuality, including aspects of professional ethics.

Relation to Program

This unit offers a particular Anglican perspective on ethics and contemporary issues within the structure of Field C, and offers a perspective between Protestant and Roman Catholic Ethics, while drawing from both traditions. It provides for sustained academic research and analysis of ethics and contemporary issues from an Anglican perspective, and integrates the social and ecclesial implications of the other courses in Field C of the program.

Aims

This unit aims to provide students with a critical appreciation of ethics and moral living from an Anglican perspective, and the theology that under girds ethical practice and moral living. The unit aims to assist students engage in sustained critical research into ethics in the light of contemporary issues.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Engage in a critical and constructive understanding of the nature of ethics and moral living from the perspective of the biblical and Christian tradition, together with the philosophical and social factors that impinge upon the nature of ethics;
2.	Engage critically with the Christian tradition generally and the Anglican tradition specifically in the light of contemporary issues and contemporary movements in ethics and cultural thought;
3.	Demonstrate developed critical research and writings skills

Content

Part 1:

What is Christian about Christian Ethics:

- Overview of Ethical Theory and Confessional Approaches
- Is Justice Natural? How liberal are Liberal Societies?

The doctrinal framework of Christian ethics

- Case studies The Anglican Moral Tradition, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Rowan Williams
- Case studies: Niebuhr, Barth, Schussler-Fiorenza

Part 2:

Scripture and Ethics:

- Engaging Richard Hays', *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*

Part 3:

Contemporary Issues and Christian ethics

- Political ethics, war and peace
- Medical ethics
- Sexual ethics, Human beings and relationships
- Environment, economics
- Professional ethics

Organisation and Teaching Strategies

Teaching will occur through lectures, seminar presentations and class discussion, and individual research for seminars and assessments.

The weekly teaching schedule will be as follows:

1. Lectures and discussion (1hr 45mins)

2. Seminars and discussion on prescribed readings (1 hr)
3. Break following lecture (1/4hr)
4. Individual supervisory sessions when required

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Seminar Paper	1000	20%	Week s 1-12	1, 2
2	Essay 1 The essay tests the student's knowledge of and engagement with the Anglican tradition of ethics and moral theology.	2,000	30%	Week 9	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Essay 2 This essay tests the student ability to engage with a particular issue from Part 3 of the Course. The student must engage with a contemporary issue from the perspective of Anglican tradition though not in isolation from ecumenical discussion or the issues of contemporary thought. This essay will meet all objectives outlined above.	2500 - 3000	50%	Week 14	1, 2, 3, 4

Generic Skills

- Advanced skills in research, including primary and secondary texts.
- Advanced skills in integration of a variety of research material.
- Advanced writing skills: organisation, focus and consciousness
- Advanced skills in use of electronic catalogues, databases and search engines, as well as hard copy resources.

Bibliography

Textbooks Required:

Gill, Robin. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Recommended:

Hays, Richard B. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New creation: a contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*, Harper, 1996.

Academic and General Resources

a. Anglican References

Allison, C. FitzSimmons. *The Rise of Moralism: The Proclamation of the Gospel from Hooker to Baxter*, Morehouse-Barlow, 1966.

Anglican Church of Australia *Protocol for dealing with complaints of abuse*, Brisbane, Qld.: Anglican Church of Australia, 2002

Anglican Church of Australia. Doctrine Panel *Faithfulness in fellowship: reflections on homosexuality and the Church*, Mulgrave. Vic.: John Garrett, 2001

- Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, *Life in Christ: morals, communion and the church: an agreed statement* by the Second Anglican - Roman Catholic International Commission ARCIC II London: Church House/Catholic Truth Society, 1994
- Church of England in Australia. Diocese of Sydney. *Ethics and Social Questions Committee Report on homosexuality*, Sydney, NSW: Diocese of Sydney, 1973
- Church of England in Australia. Diocese of Sydney. *Ethics and Social Questions Committee Abortion report*, Sydney, NSW: Information and Public Relations Office, 1970
- Gill, Robin. Ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Gill, Robin. Ed. Rev Edn., *A Textbook of Christian Ethics*, Edinburgh, T & T Clark, 1995.
- Morgan, John. *Is there an Anglican social ethic?* Brisbane, Qld.: St Francis' College, 1982
- O'Donovan, Oliver, *Resurrection and moral order: an outline for evangelical ethics*, 2nd Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994
- Report of the Doctrine Commission of the Church of England, *Being Human: A Christian understanding of personhood illustrated with reference to power, money, sex and time*, Church House Publishing. 2003.
- Sedgwick, Timothy. *Sacramental Ethics: Pascal Identity and the Christian Life*, Fortress Press. 1987
- Selby, Peter. *Grace and Mortgage: The language of faith and the debt of the world*, DLT, 1997.
- Williams, Rowan. "Interiority and Epiphany: A Reading in New Testament Ethics," and "Resurrection and Peace: More on New Testament Ethics," in *On Christian Theology*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2000.

b. General References

- Beachamp T.L. and Childress J.F. *Principles of biomedical Ethics*, (4th Edn) Oxford University Press. 1994
- Boulton, Wayne G., Kennedy, Thomas D., and Verhey, Allen, (Eds) *From Christ to the World: Introductory readings in Christian Ethics*, Eerdmans, 1994.
- Curran, Charles E Farley, Margaret A Farley, Richard A McCormick, S.J.: editors *Feminist ethics and the Catholic moral tradition: readings in moral theology* No 9 New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1996
- Daly, H.E. and Cobb, J.B. *For the Common good: Redirecting the economy toward community and the environment and a sustainable future*, Beacon. 1989
- Harrington, Daniel SJ. and James Keenan, SJ. *Jesus And Virtue Ethics: Building Bridges Between New Testament Studies And Moral Theology*. Lanham, Md.: Sheed and Ward, 2002.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *Sanctify them in the Truth: Holiness Exemplified*, T & T Clark, 1998.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *A Community of Character: Toward a constructive Christian social ethic*, University of Notre Dame, 1986.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *The Peaceable Kingdom*, University of Notre Dame, 1983.
- Keating, James. (Ed) *Moral Theology: New Directions and Fundamental Issues*, Paulist Press, 2004.
- Kearon, K. *Medical Ethics*, T& TClark, 1995.
- Lohse, E. *Theological Ethics and the New Testament*, Fortress Press, 1991.
- MacIntyre, Alistair *A Short History of Christian Ethics: A history of moral philosophy from the Homeric age to the twentieth century*. 2nd edn. Routledge, 1997.
- MacIntyre, Alistair *After Virtue*, University of Notre Dame, 1984.
- Macquarrie, J. and Childress J.F (eds) *A New Dictionary of Christian Ethics*, SCM Press, 1986.
- McDonald, J. Ian H *Christian values: theory and practice in Christian ethics today* Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1995.
- Meeks, Wayne A. *The Origins of Christian Morality: The first two centuries*, Yale University Press, 1993.

- Mudge, Lewis S. *The Church as Moral Community: Ecclesiology and Ethics in Ecumenical Debate*, WCC/Continuum, 1998
- Nelson, J. B., *Moral Nexus: Ethics and Christian Identity and Community*, 25th Anniversary Edition, Westminster/John Knox, 1996.
- Preece, G. *Changing Work Values*, Acorn, 1995.
- Parsons, Susan Frank. *Feminism and Christian Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Stackhouse, Max L. Obenchain, Diane B. [editors] *God and globalization: Christ and the dominions of civilization* Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2000
- Spohn, William C. *What are they saying about Scripture and Ethics?* Paulist Press, 1984.
- Spohn, William C. *Go and Do Likewise: Jesus and Ethics*, Continuum, 1999.
- Schrage, W. *Ethics of the New Testament*, Fortress Press, 1987.
- Vardy, Peter. *Business Morality*, Marshall Pickering, 1989.

b. References – Journal Articles

- Danaher William J. “Renewing the Anglican Moral Vision: What Called to Common Mission Offers Anglican Moral Theology,” *Anglican Theological Review*. Evanston: Winer 2005, Vol 87. Issue 1.
- Gustafson, James M. “Spiritual Life and Moral Life.” *Theology Digest* 19 (1971): 296-307.
- Melchin, Kenneth R., “What is “the Good” of Business? Insights from the Work of Bernard Lonergan,” *Anglican Theological Review*. Evanston: Winter 2005.Vol.87, Iss. 1.
- Williams, Rowan. “Interiority and Epiphany: A Reading in New Testament Ethics,” *Modern Theology* 13, (1997), 29-51.
- Williams, Rowan. “Making Moral Decisions” in Gill, Robin. Ed. 2001 *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 1-15.
- Williams, Rowan. 1988 Address at Lambeth Plenary on making moral decisions - July 22, <http://anglicancommunion.org/acns/lambeth/lc035.html>

c. References

Journals

Anglican Theological Review
Journal of Religious Ethics (USA)
Studies in Christian Ethics

Online and Other IT Resources

<http://people.bu.edu/bpstone/theology/theology.html>
<http://www.anglicanlibrary.org>
www.continuumjournals.com/jas
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/faith/bem1.html>
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org>