The overall purpose of this course is described on the Fall Syllabus. For this section, the first semester presented the component of the course geared to the Philosophy core. The second semester presents the Theology component. The specific nature and learning objectives of the Theology core are found on the last two pages of this syllabus.

Books for Purchase

1) Elizabeth Johnson, *Quest for the Living God*
2) Michael Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*
3) Bill Huebsch, *The Constitutions (Vatican II in Plain English)*
3) H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Responsible Self*
4) John Neafsey, *A Sacred Voice Is Calling*
5) Jonathon Kozol, *Amazing Grace*

Other required readings are *The Boston Globe (M-F), some online resources* as noted in the syllabus, and several readings which will be *found in the O'Neill Library E-reserves* for this course (look under TH08914). These are preceded by an (E) in the syllabus. A few readings will be provided as handouts. They are preceded by (H).

All readings from the Bible should be found online. Use the following source, and no other! In your search engine, enter and click on “New Revised Standard Version”. This should carry you to URL: www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm The homepage, on the right, will have ‘Oremus Bible Browser”. De-select the boxes which are checked “Omit verse numbers” & “Omit footnotes”. (Leave the other one checked.) Then above that, under “Enter a Bible Reference”, enter the passage as it is shown in the syllabus, except that you can only read one chapter at a time, so for the Farewell Discourse, enter John 14. Once there, read it and proceed through John 15, 16, and 17. For Sermon on the Mount, enter Matthew 5, then proceed through 6 and 7.
Assignments

Volunteer Placement  As in first semester  35%
Class Participation  As in first semester  15%
Quizzes For dates, see below  10%
Mid-Term Paper  Due March 19  15%
Personal Statement  Due May 3  10%
Final Exam  Monday, May 14, 9 AM (Option: Sat., May 12)  15%

Academic Integrity

The Boston College policy on academic integrity is enforced in this course. Any failure to observe it may result in failure for the course or, if circumstances favor it, failure for the assignment. You are responsible to be familiar with the policy. Your decision to remain in this course beyond the end of the drop/add period constitutes your agreement with this. You can find the policy by entering www.bc.edu in your browser. On the home page, enter “academic integrity” in the BC search assistance, top right. Otherwise, use this link: http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity

How to keep your clippings this semester

For your newspaper clippings this semester, you should clip materials in THREE GROUPS.

(a) One bundle can be clippings related to your placement, or clippings that help you understand your placement better.

(b) The second bundle can be on any topics related to class readings. Each clipping should have a short caption mentioning which class readings it relates to. Feel free to include things that remind you of last semester’s readings also.

(c) The third bundle contains anything that had a personal impact on you. It can be inspirational, humorous, thought-provoking . . . but somehow when you read it, you felt “Ah! That’s something for me to absorb personally.” This bundle is used only for the personal paper due in early May. You do not have to present it with the mid-term paper.

Dates for Quizzes
There will be 15 quizzes for a total of 50 questions.

Jan. 17    Kozol
Jan. 24    Johnson ch. 2, Himes chs. 1 & 2
Jan. 31    Donahue
Feb. 2     Ten Commandments by memory
Feb. 9     Smith chapter on Christianity
Feb. 16    Johnson ch. 3
Feb. 23    Gaudium et Spes
Feb. 28    Hollenbach, Byron, Johnson ch. 4
Mar. 15    H. Richard Niebuhr book (entire)
Mar. 29    Cone (2 articles), Johnson ch. 6
Apr. 10    Andolsen, Lebacqz, Johnson ch. 5
Apr. 17    Johnson ch. 8
Apr. 24    Neafsey chs. 1-5
Apr. 26    Neafsey chs. 6-10
May 1      Levoy, chs. 12 and 16

Mid-Term Paper

Eight pages minimum, fourteen pages maximum. Due on March 19. Your overall goal is to think about your placement and the world as reflected in the newspapers, using the perspective of Christian ethics. In your paper, you should draw together (1) reflection on your placement, (2) reflection from our readings, and (3) clippings gathered from January 19 to March 15 that relate to both the readings and the placement. Only clippings in categories (a) and (b) above up to that date should be presented neatly in two separate sections.

(1) On your placement, you can discuss your client, the organization itself, or your own personal development. Give specific examples and stories.

(2) Reflect on how Christian ethics might relate to your placement and to news items.

(3) Therefore, even if you may find little on your placement, you should still become strong at making connections between our readings and events in the news. For example, how might a Catholic respond distinctively to some item in the news? Is there a dimension of your placement which could be seen as an example of fundamental biblical ethics? As we come to discuss the two versions of Christian love ethics – the charity version and the justice version – does your placement fall more under one than the other?

Organize the paper anyway that you like, moving from placement to news and readings. Or choose major themes from readings and weave in stories from news and placement. Or start with the news and show how it connects to specifics at your placement and in our readings.

Final Exam   The Terms of the Discussion

As we conclude the course, the professor will indicate terms, concepts, and questions essential to understanding the thinkers whom we studied since September. As with the final exam in first semester, you will receive a longer list of items to prepare (about 30). At the actual final exam, you will receive a list of fewer items divided into distinct categories (about 4 per category). You will then select 1 or 2 and write an explanation of the meaning and importance of them. There might be a take-home component too. We’ll see.
The Personal Statement

Six pages minimum, nine pages maximum. Due May 3 in class. To conclude the course, you are asked to write a personal statement. In this essay, search out the meaning of this year in Pulse for your own life and growth. The essay can take any form you desire. You can answer as many or as few questions as you wish. You should try to draw together three major concerns: (a) the person you are becoming with or without reference to Pulse; how you are in charge of your education, or how the system is in charge of you; (b) the experience at your placement; (c) the readings and experiences of our class as a community of learning.

For this paper, select only news clippings that have affected you personally. (Category (c) above.) You should have at least two per week since January. You may not actually find two every week, but in other weeks you can compensate. You may, however, find that some of the clippings that you previously placed in bundles (a) and (b) would fit very well in (c).

Here are examples of questions to consider. You can certainly think of different ones. You can answer more or fewer. For example, how does this course relate to goals you are setting in life? What place does the course have in your education up to now? What place should the course have in your education after this? What have you learned from your placement? What have you gained from the readings? How has the community in class shaped you? Has any dimension of “calling” (as in readings by Neafsey and Levoy) opened up for you?

The essay is not just a summary of the year, or a list of good intentions. It is a personal statement about the role of Pulse in the person you are becoming. Perhaps it has been a neutral experience with mediocre results. Describe how that happened. Perhaps you are left feeling very negative. This is the chance to say so with safety. What do you hope to keep, to remember, to continue working on from your year of study and service and class relationships in Pulse? What will you be glad to leave behind?
Viewing Life from the Perspective of Urban Poverty

1. Jan. 17  **Quiz** and discussion on reading, Jonathan Kozol, *Amazing Grace*

   Jan. 19  Discussion of Kozol, continued

Religion, God-Talk, and Theology: What Are We Talking About … and Can We?

2. Jan. 24  **Quiz** and discussion on readings:

   **NOTE:** Discussion sections this week will discuss these readings.

   Johnson, chap. 2 and Himes, chaps. 1 & 2

Religious Ethics as a Communitarian Ethic

   Jan. 26  Continuation of Tuesday’s discussion

   **Lecture** on the structure and contents of the Bible

Biblical Foundations of Christian Ethics

3. Jan. 31  **Quiz** on reading:

   (E or H) John Donahue, “Biblical Perspectives on Justice”

   **Lecture** on meaning and message of the Hebrew Prophets

   Feb. 2  **Quiz** on the contents of the Ten Commandments

   See last page of syllabus for the Ten Commandments.

   **Lecture** Covenant, Commandment, and Communitarian Ethics


   **Readings:** 1 John 3 (First Epistle of John, chapter 3),

   Gospel of John chs. 14, 15, 16, 17 (Farewell Discourse),

   Gospel of Matthew chs. 5, 6, 7 (Sermon on the Mount)

   Gospel of Luke, ch. 10, verses 25-37 (Good Samaritan)

   and ch. 15, verses 11-32 (Prodigal Son)

   Feb. 9  **Quiz** on (H or E) Huston Smith chapter on Christianity

   **Lecture and discussion** New Testament Foundations, continued

5. Feb. 14  **Lecture & Discussion** on The Christian God and Suffering

   **Reading** Johnson, *Quest …*, chap. 3, “Crucified God …”
Catholic Ethics

Feb. 16  **Quiz** on Johnson, chap. 3  
**Lecture** Introducing Catholic Ethics: Ambiguity of the Catholic situation

6 Feb. 21  **Lecture** on *Gaudium et Spes*; **Video** in class this week
Feb. 23  **Quiz** on *Gaudium et Spes*
**Recommended Reading**: Himes, chapters 7 & 8

7 Feb. 28  **Quiz** on Hollenbach, Byron, and Johnson readings  
Distinctive Catholic Contributions to Ethics  
**Reading**: David Hollenbach, William Byron, “Ten Building Blocks” (Handout)  
Johnson, chap. 4

Mar. 1  Catholic Ethics, concluded

8 Mar. 6 & 8  Spring Break
### Protestant Ethics

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 Mar. 13</td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> Introducing Protestantism</td>
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| 10 Mar. 15 | **Quiz** on H. R. Niebuhr

Lecture and Discussion on H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Responsible Self* (entire)

*Mid-Term Paper Due Friday, March 16, 3 PM, in Theology Mailroom*

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 Mar. 20</td>
<td><strong>Discussion</strong> of H. Richard Niebuhr, continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Mar. 22</td>
<td><strong>Lecture on reading:</strong> (E) Reinhold Niebuhr</td>
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### Contextual Ethics: Black Theology

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| 11 Mar. 27 | **Lecture:** Niebuhr Applied to Contextual Ethics: Black Theology

(E) James Cone, “Black Power & The White Church”
(E) James Cone, “Jesus is Black”
Johnson, chap. 6, “God Who Breaks Chains”

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<tr>
<td>12 Mar. 29</td>
<td><strong>Quiz and discussion</strong> on above readings</td>
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### Contextual Ethics: Feminist Theology

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| 12 Apr. 3 | **Readings** (E) Barbara Andolsen, “Agape in Feminist Ethics”

(E) Karen Lebacqz, “Love Your Enemy”
Johnson, chap. 5, “God Acting Womanish”

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<tr>
<td>13 Apr. 5</td>
<td>Maundy (or Holy) Thursday - - No Class</td>
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<td>13 Apr. 10</td>
<td><strong>Quiz and discussion</strong> on Feminist Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Apr. 12</td>
<td>Catch up on materials</td>
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Christian Theology and World Religions

14 Apr. 17 Quiz and discussion on Johnson, chap. 8
   “Generous God of the Religions”

   Apr. 19 Continuation

Toward a Conclusion: Pulse, Calling, and Career

15 Apr. 24 Quiz and discussion on Neafsey, chaps. 1-5

   Apr. 26 Quiz and discussion on Neafsey, chaps. 6-10

16 May 1 Quiz and discussion on (E) Gregg Levoy, Callings
   chapters. 12 and 16

17 May 3 Conclusion

May 4: Personal Statement Due, Noon, Theology Department
The Ten Commandments

On the quiz, four numbers will be given at random. You are to write out those commandments – but put P or C to indicate which numbering. If you are more familiar with the wording “Thou shalt not”, you may use it.

Catholic Version

Table I:

1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; you shall have no other gods before me. [Optional and omitted: You shall not make for yourself any graven images [i.e., idols].]
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

Table II:

4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

Protestant Version (Greek Orthodox, Anglican, Episcopalian, and all Protestants except Lutherans, who follow Catholic numbering)

Table I:

1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; you shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make unto you any graven images [i.e., idols].
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Table II:

5. Honor your mother and father.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
    You shall not cover your neighbor’s goods.