

**SYLLABUS**

**Course:** RP341-M&N-M Ethics (Blended)  
**Credit:** 2 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Fall 2021 (Cycle 1, July 12–Aug 20; Accelerate I, July 19–22)  
**Class Time:** 8:00am–12:00pm, Monday–Thursday  
**Professor:** Dr. Michel Dodds, (816) 322-5152 ext. 1348, mike.dodds@calvary.edu  
(913) 638-3291 (cell)

*\*About This Course: This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.*

*\*About Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinate (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.*

*\*About Assistance for All Course Assignments: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.*

*\*About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.*

**I. DESCRIPTION**

A general investigation into the major issues in ethics both on the individual and societal levels. Emphasis is upon a Christian critique of these issues in order to establish a proper biblical perspective of ethical inquiry. (Prerequisite: RP239)

**II. OBJECTIVES****A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Understand basic components of models for ethics and value. (PLO: 1 / A: A, B, C1)
2. Recognize the importance of consistency in valuing. (PLO: 2 / A: A, B, C3)
3. Examine the basis and content of Biblical ethics. (PLO: 3 / A: A, B, C1)
4. Examine your own ethics models. (PLO: 1 / A: A, B, C1)

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Develop a grid for assessing ethics models. (PLO: 1 / A: A, B, C1)
2. Critically assess ethics models based on worldview bases. (PLO: 4 / A: A, B, C2)
3. Practice ethical decision making. (PLO: 4 / A: A, B, C3)

### III. REQUIRED MATERIALS

#### A. Bible

**The Bible** is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

#### B. Textbook

Steve Wilkens, *Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics*, IVP, 2011, ISBN 9780830839360. \$24.00. 240 pages.

### IV. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE (1000 points)

#### A. Attendance and Participation (200 points)

All students must attend class. Campus students are required to attend the class in person at the scheduled time and location. Online students are required to attend the class by viewing or listening to the class recording within 24 hours of its posting in the online classroom. Points for attendance will accrue based on successful completion, as listed below.

All students must participate in classroom discussion through the online classroom as assigned in the Course Schedule. This discussion is part of the contact time for the course, and will include answering the Key Discussion Questions (KLQ's, identified in the lectures) with at least a 200-word response per question, *interacting with responses of other students and, and interacting with the professor*. Points for participation will accrue based on successful completion, as listed below.

#### B. Reading and Reading Accountability (560 points)

Students will complete all assigned reading as listed in the Course Schedule and will write a book report (at least 500 words) on each of the 8 readings. Reports should be reflective and should include two elements: (1) an objective summary of the reading, and (2) justified critiques or affirmations of the ideas presented in the reading.

#### C. Research and Writing (250 points)

Students will complete one research paper of at least 2000 words on any of the following topics:

1. Paper #1: A paper outlining and describing a Biblical model or grid for ethics. The paper should include only Biblical citations, meaning that all statements should be justified Biblically, and that no other sources should be used to construct this paper. This Biblical Ethics Grid should include and explain the basis for Biblical ethics, the content, and some specific examples in application (case studies).

2. Paper #2: A paper critiquing a non-biblical ethics model through the lens of a Biblical one. This paper should objectively identify core components (bases, content, and application) of the ethics model being critiqued, and should offer a compelling and well-justified critique from a Biblical perspective. At least 6-10 sources should be used and cited.
3. Paper #3: A case study dealing with a contemporary issue, through the lens of two competing ethics models – a Biblical model and any non-biblical model. This case study is designed to provide practice in assessment and ethics decision making. At least 6-10 sources should be used and cited.

**D. Quizzes and Projects**

There are no quizzes or projects required for this class.

**E. Exams**

There are no exams required for this class.

**F. Grading Rubric**

<i>Key Lecture Questions (8)</i>	<i>200 points</i>
<i>Reading Accountability Reports (8)</i>	<i>560 points</i>
<i>Research Paper</i>	<i>240 points</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1000 points</i>

**G. Assignment Notices**

**All assignments** are to be submitted in the online classroom. No hard copies will be accepted.

**All research papers** must be submitted in Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the 2019 Calvary Style Guide Addendum.

**Plagiarism** is defined as copying any information without proper citation, including taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. Assignments including plagiarized information will not be assigned any points, and further disciplinary action is possible.

**V. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 – July 12-16 – Pre-Work** – Read BBSE and ABW (entire books)

**Week 2 – July 19-23 – Class Meetings and Course Interaction**

**Week 3 – July 26–29 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research**

**Week 4 – August 2–6 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research**

**Week 5 – August 9–13 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research**

**Week 6 – August 16–20 – Course Interaction, Reading, and Research**