

COS 424 – ETHICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION *(Goals & Objectives)*

This course introduces the biblical and theological bases for Christian behavior, emphasizing the pastoral skills needed for moral leadership in the congregation and community.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological basis for ethical thinking and moral behavior, and distinguish major approaches to ethical reasoning.
 2. Comprehend the relationship between their personal stories, pastoral vocation, local contexts, and responsibility as moral leaders.
 3. Develop a Christian framework for moral reason and action, and apply it to the use of power and the setting of boundaries in ministry.
 4. Demonstrate familiarity with and make use of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church as a resource for ethical reflection and action.
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TEXTBOOKS

Required Texts:

Robin Lovin, *An Introduction to Christian Ethics: Goals, Duties and Virtues*

Patricia Jung and Darryl W. Stephens, *Professional Sexual Ethics*

Reference:

Social Principles

Book of Resolutions

Supplementary:

Rebekah Miles, *The Pastor as a Moral Guide*

Richard Hays, *Moral Vision of the New Testament*

Stephen Mott, *Biblical Ethics and Social Change*

TEXTBOOK SELECTION FOR COURSE OF STUDY

Goal: Two basic texts (**required**) per class. Individual faculty may add another.

Reference books are **required** and are to help a student build their own library.

Assignments assure the use of the reference books; they are not classroom texts.

Supplemental texts are valuable, but **optional** texts if a student wants to pursue an area of ministry.