



## COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTOR

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	<b>Ethics 1</b>
Unit code	134 (Distance learning version 8134)
Credit rating	10
Level	4
Contact hours	24 (n/a to distance learning version)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Joshua T. Searle
ECT	5
Notional hours of learning	100

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

The unit focuses on the historical development of ethics, specifically in relation to contrasting philosophical traditions. Focus then shifts to the way in which the Christian Church has understood the Scriptures in relation to the construction of ethics; in particular, attention is paid to various ways in which the Christian narrative can be understood as a foundation for ethics. The relationship between doctrine and ethics is explored through engaging with particular issues of contemporary moral debate, including social justice, respect for life, and sexuality.

### AIMS

To critically engage with contrasting perspectives on the nature of the ethical task by exploring the historical development of the subject.

### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	By the end of this unit students should be able to:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate knowledge of major philosophical traditions as they relate to the construction of ethics</li> </ul>
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explain the distinctive contribution of key theologians to ethics</li> </ul>
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflect on current affairs in the light of the material studied</li> <li>write an essay, using footnotes and bibliographies in an appropriate way</li> </ul>

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<b>Formative:</b>		
• 134: An oral presentation	10 minutes	n/a
• 8134: An essay plan	300 words	n/a
<b>Summative:</b>		
• 134: An essay and a book review	1000 words + 1000 words	50% 50%
• 8134: An essay and a learning journal*	2000 words	Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.		

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	
Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology

Content	The historical development of ethics Some key theologians and ethicists African Theological Ethics Ethics, philosophy and faith The Sermon on the Mount The Bible and Ethics Love and Justice Man and Woman Respect for Life
Teaching method	Interactive lectures; online learning resources (videos, blogs, quizzes, etc.)
Additional eLearning content	Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's <i>Online</i> to support student learning
Feedback	Written feedback within 15 working days from submission
Date of approval (for office use)	
Information updated on	September 2020

## INDICATIVE READING

- Aristotle, *Ethics* (Oxford: OUP, 2014) (click [HERE](#) for the book itself; click [HERE](#) for the study guide)
- Enemark, C., *Biosecurity Dilemmas, Dreaded Diseases, Ethical Responses, and the Health of Nations* (Georgetown: GUP, 2017) (click [HERE](#))
- Hays, Richard, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1996) (click [HERE](#))
- Nkansah-Obrempong, James., *Foundations for African Theological Ethics: A Contemporary Rural African Perspective* (Carlisle: Langham, 2013) (click [HERE](#))
- Robb, M. S., "The Theology of Dallas Willard", in *The Evangelical Quarterly*, 87 no 3 Jul 2015, p 264-269 (click [HERE](#))
- Stassen, Glen, "By their fruits you will know them: incarnational discipleship stands the test" in *Baptistic Theologies*, 4 (2012), pp.1-14 (click [HERE](#))
- Stassen, Glen and Gushee, David, *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003)
- Van Til, K., *The Moral Disciple: An Introduction to Christian Ethics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012). Available as a complete e-book (click [HERE](#))
- Wells, S. and others, *Introducing Christian Ethics* (Oxford: Wiley, 2017) (click [HERE](#))
- Willard, Dallas, *The Divine Conspiracy* (San Francisco: Harper, 2003) (click [HERE](#))
- Williams, R., "A thicker Jesus as a contextual and embodied Christian ethics", in *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, 40 (2013), p.155-166 (click [HERE](#))