

SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST

NTS567
THEOLOGY OF THE
ENGLISH NT –
NEW TESTAMENT
ETHICS



Andrews University

NTS567

THEOLOGY OF THE ENGLISH NT - ETHICS

March 5-9, 2017

InMinistry Center Intensive
MA in Pastoral Ministry

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION

Class acronym: NTST567
Class name: Theology of the English NT - Ethics
Semester & year: Spring 2017
Class location: Union College – Ortner Center
Class time/day: **Sunday, March 5, 7:00pm – 9:00pm**
Monday – Thursday, March 6-9, 8:00am – 5:00pm
Credits offered: 3

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT DETAILS

Instructor: P. Richard Choi, PhD
Telephone: W – (269) 471-6573
H – (269) 429-4171
Email: choir@andrews.edu
Office location: Seminary Building - N128
Office hours: By Appointment

BULLETIN CLASS DISCRIPTION

Study of selected NT topics. The subject cannot be repeated with the other 500-level course number. Does not presuppose Greek proficiency nor count toward MDiv core requirements or emphases, nor the MA major or minor in New Testament. Repeatable with a different subject area.

CLASS OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this class are to:

Course: Ethics is usually taught as a sub-discipline of philosophy. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the ethical concepts found in the New Testament. In other words, this course explores how one can derive norms of conduct from New Testament theology. Moreover, students will be introduced to the four steps of interpretation outlined in Richard Hay's book *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. The student should expect class discussion to center on these four interpretive steps.

Methodology: This course loosely follows the methodology outlined in Richard B. Hays's book. Students are advised to read his text carefully, paying attention to the descriptive, synthetic, hermeneutical, and pragmatic methods of reading the NT. Although there are no separate lectures on Peter, James, Jude, and Hebrews because of time constraints, they will be referenced in the course of lecturing on the other books of the NT.

Justification: Today's Christian is faced with increasingly complex and confusing ethical choices. It is important for him or her to be able to base their ethical decisions on the Bible. As a result of taking this course, the student will gain basic knowledge of how to make ethical decisions facing Christians today based on the NT.

HOW MUCH TOTAL TIME INVESTMENT FOR THIS CLASS?

Advanced theological education is no ‘cake-walk’, nor is it intended to ‘wear out the saints’. Designed to immerse the learner in deep theological study and introspective reflection, seminary course expectation is to challenge the student by examining his/her own premises against the study, research and inspiration of biblical scholarship.

This will take intentionality and time on your part. The course load is guided by the expectation that students will spend a total of 45 hours of course exposure to earn 1 hour of academic credit. That translates into 90 hours invested for a 2-credit class, and 135 hours for a 3-credit course. Students are advised to spend their time accordingly to meet course requirements and deadlines.

The following is a rule of thumb to help guide your reading, research, and writing for Seminary courses:

- Average reading speed 15-20 pages/hr.
- Average writing speed 3 hr./page
- Exam preparation 4-8 hours

Based on these averages, requirements for this class will take the average student the following:

- Required reading (1 book) 35 hrs.
- Exam preparation 2 hrs.
- 12-page report 36 hrs.
- 10-page essay 30 hrs.
- Hours in class 32 hrs.

Total Hours for class 135

TEXTBOOKS, RECOMMENDED READINGS AND CLASS BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Reading:

Hays, Richard B. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1996, 528 pages. ISBN 0-06-063796-x.

Selected Bibliography

- Dewar, Lindsay. *An Outline of New Testament Ethics*. London: University of London Press, 1949.
- Flew, R. Newton. *Jesus and His Way: A Study of Ethics of the New Testament*. London: The Epworth Press, 1963.
- Goldsmith, Dale. *New Testament Ethics: An Introduction*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1988.
- Hays, Richard B. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1996.
- Houlden, J. L. *Ethics and the New Testament*. Harmondsworth, England: Penguin Books, 1973.
- Lillie, William. *Studies in New Testament Ethics*. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1961.
- Lohse, Eduard. *Theological Ethics of the New Testament*. Translated by M. Eugene Boring. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1988, 1991.
- Marshall, L. H. *The Challenge of New Testament Ethics*. 3 Volumes. London: MacMillan and Co., Limited, 1946-64.
- Marxsen, Willie. *New Testament Foundations for Christian Ethics*. Translated by O. C. Dean, Jr. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Matera, Frank J. *New Testament Ethics: The Legacies of Jesus and Paul*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Murray, John. *Principles of Conduct: Aspects of Biblical Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1957.
- Pate, Marvin C. and Kennard, Douglas W. *Deliverance Now and Not Yet: The New Testament and the Great Tribulation*. Studies in Biblical Literature, 54. New York: Peter Lang, 2003.
- Sanders, Jack T. *Ethics in the New Testament: Change and Development*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.
- Schnackenburg, Rudolf. *The Moral Teaching of the New Testament*. Translated by J. Holland-Smith and W. J. O'Hara. London: Burns and Oates, 1965.
- Schrage, Wolfgang. *The Ethics of the New Testament*. Translated by David E. Green. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982, 1988.
- Scott, C. A. Anderson. *New Testament Ethics: An Introduction*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1930.
- Verhey, Allen. *The Great Reversal: Ethics and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids; Eerdmans, 1984.

Examinations

An exam will be given each day from 4:00-5:00 p.m., at the conclusion of the day's lectures. All the exams will be open-book, open-notes, essay type. There will be two essay questions per exam, (from which you can choose one), and each exam is worth 50 points. The exams will cover the lecture materials gone over in class during the day up to the final class before the exam. The exams are NOT accumulative. On the exam, students will be expected to demonstrate a knowledge of the material from the reading of Hays's book as well as the lecture material. *It is strongly recommended that students carefully read the textbook before arriving on site to start the class, as there will be very little time to read it while the class is in progress or during the one-hour exam.*

Written Works

- (1) Reading Report. Submit a 12 page report on Hays's book consisting of the following 4 sections. See below under "Before Class Requirements" for more details. The report is worth 100 points.
- (2) Essay. After the final lecture, the student needs to submit an essay on an ethical issue facing the church that is NOT discussed in Hays's book. For example, you could write on issues like women's ordination, Sabbath keeping, or the labor union. It would be perhaps most meaningful if you wrote on an ethical issue currently facing your congregation. The paper must be typed, double-space, and 10 pages long.
- (3) Expectations. The paper needs to reflect the learning that has taken place during the course. The paper must discuss the subject *in four distinct sections*: descriptive, synthetic, hermeneutical, and practical—methodological approaches that will be carefully discussed in the lectures. The criteria for grading will be the significance of the reflections *and* the competent use of the methodologies. The student must go beyond the class discussion and the contents of Hays's book to score well on the paper. This paper represents the culmination of the student's reflection and learning that has taken place in this class. The paper is worth 100 points. **The paper is due on October 13, 2017.**
- (4) Total Points Possible for the Course. You may earn up to 400 points with your report, exam and essay, 100 points from the report, 200 points from the exams and 100 points from the essay.

GRADING CRITERIA AND COURSE ASSESSMENT ITEMS

95-100	A
90-94	A-
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	B-
70-74	C+
65-69	C
60-64	C-
55-59	D
0-54	F

Late Submission

The following penalties will be applied for late submission of assessment items:

Assessments received by due date:	(possible A grade)
Delay up to 60 days:	(no better than an A- grade)
Delay up to 90 days:	(no better than a B+ grade)
Delay up to 120 days:	(no better than a B grade)
Delay up to 150 days:	(no better than a C grade)

BEFORE CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading Report on Richard Hays's book. Due at the beginning of the class on March 5, 2017.**
 - i. **Submit a 12 page report on Hays's book that deals with the following questions. (The main thing I am looking for is evidence that you read the book.)**
 - a. *Descriptive (5 pages)*. What is the descriptive process? How does this differ from regular exegesis? Provide at least one example from each of the categories, e.g. Pauline, Matthew, etc., in your discussions.
 - b. *Synthetic (3 pages)*. What is the synthetic process? How does this process differ from the descriptive process? Explain the concept of focal images. How do they differ from mere metaphors? Be concrete. Provide examples.
 - c. *Hermeneutical (2 pages)*. What is the hermeneutical process? How does this process differ from the synthetic process? How can we use the three hermeneutical tools – tradition, reason, and experience – in the context of Adventist beliefs? Be concrete. Provide examples.
 - d. *Practical (2 pages)*. What is the practical process? Hays does not offer any steps. Can you think of any steps that could be helpful in this process? Or do we just make a jump?
 - ii. **Criteria of grading**

A	B	C	D	F
Excellent grasp of the concepts illustrated with appropriate examples. Well written, coherent essay. No typos or errors. Evidence of the ability to work with abstract ideas and images.	A good grasp of the concepts. A graduate level of clarity in writing.	Confusion with some concepts. Inaccuracies in information. Not always easy to follow.	Poor grasp of the concepts. Poorly written essay with typos and errors. Unclear arguments.	Shows no evidence that the student has read the book. None of the concepts in the book are present in the essay. Poorly written with many typos and errors.

The Report is due at the beginning of the class on March 5, 2017. The report is worth 100 points.

DURING CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. **Exams:** During the last hour of class each day, 50 points each
2. **Criteria of grading:** See the criteria above.

AFTER CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Paper. After the final lecture, the student needs to submit a paper on an ethical issue facing the church that is NOT discussed in Hays's book. Due on October 13, 2017. See the expectations above and the rubrics for grading below. The essay is worth 100 points.

CLASS POLICIES

Classroom Seating

There will be no seating chart for this course.

Disability Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations.

Course Registration

February 5 is the last day to register for this course. Please see the registration link and instructions at <https://www.andrews.edu/sem/inministry/schedule/classes/2017spring/2017-spring-ntst-567-choi-mau.html>. In some instances in which additional time is required to complete the course, the student may petition for an incomplete or a DG.

Other Policies

Laptop Computer and Lecture Notes: Laptop computers may be used for taking notes. But no hard copies or copies of the files containing the lectures may be made from the notes with the intention of circulating them either in the name of the course or of the instructor. The notes are for the sole use of the student taking the course. If the student wishes to sell or publish whole or part of the lectures, he or she must obtain the instructor's prior and written approval. The decision to remain in the course constitutes the consent to this stipulation.

Recording: The student may not use tape or other means of electronic recording to reproduce the lectures.

Changes in the Terms of this Syllabus: The terms outlined in this syllabus may be changed during the semester at the discretion of the teacher, with the consent of the class.

Class Attendance

“Regular attendance at all classes, laboratories and other academic appointments is required for each student. Faculty members are expected to keep regular attendance records. Whenever the number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.”

Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 29-30

Academic Integrity

Andrews University takes seriously all acts of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) falsifying official documents; plagiarizing; misusing copyrighted material; violating licensing agreements; using media from any source to mislead, deceive or defraud; presenting another’s work as one’s own; using materials during a quiz or examination other than those specifically allowed; stealing, accepting or studying from stolen examination materials; copying from another student; or falsifying attendance records. For more details see the Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 30.

“Consequences may include denial of admission, revocation of admission, warning from a teacher with or without formal documentation, warning from a chair or academic dean with formal documentation, receipt of a reduced or failing grade with or without notation of the reason on the transcript, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university.”

Andrews University Bulletin 2010, page 30

		Contents
	1	Syllabus and Introductory Video
	2	Paul (Hays, 16-72)
	3	Mark (Hays, 73-92)
	4	Matthew (Hays, 93-111)
	5	Luke-Acts (Hays 112-137)
	7	The Gospel and Epistles of John (Hays, 138-157)
	8	Revelation (Hays, 169-185)
	9	The Synthetic Task and Focal Images (Hays, 187-205)

	10	The Ethicist's Use of Scripture and 5 Hermeneutical Strategies (Hays, 207-290)
	11	How Shall We Use the Text (291-312)
	12	Violence in Defense of Justice (Hays, 317-346)
	13	Divorce and Remarriage (Hays, 347-348)
	14	Homosexuality (Hays, 379-406)
	15	Anti-Judaism and Ethnic Conflict (Hays, 408-443) (Will not be covered in class)
	16	Abortion (Hays, 444-461) (Will not be covered in class)
	17	Conclusion (462-470)

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

P. Richard Choi, PhD, is a professor of New Testament Studies and chair of the New Testament Department at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. His doctorate is from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been teaching at the Seminary since 1991. He is a former president of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies, and currently serves as Executive Secretary of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research and Chair Designate of Regional Coordinators for the Society of Biblical Literature. He contributed the notes for Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Philippians in the Andrews Study Bible. He is currently writing the commentary on Galatians for the Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary series. He is married to Louise and has two grown children.

