



BABCOCK UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

FIRST SEMESTER, 2016/2017 ACADEMIC SESSION

COURSE CODE: CRLS 205

COURSE TITLE: CHRISTIAN ETHICS

DAY OF CLASS: Mondays 10.00-11.50am
Wednesdays 8.00-8.50am

NO OF UNITS: 3 Credits

VENUE FOR CLASS: EAH 116

TEACHER'S NAME: Prof. Efe M. Ehioghae

OFFICE ADDRESS: HOD's office

OFFICE HOURS: 8.00 - 1.00 pm; 2.00 - 5.00 pm

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OUR VISION STATEMENT

A first-class Seventh-day Adventist institution, building servant leaders for a better world

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Building leadership through Christian education; transforming lives, impacting society for positive change. To achieve our mission, we are committed to:

1. Achieving excellence in our teaching, research program, and service delivery
2. Imparting quality Christian education
3. Instilling Christ-like character to the members of our Community

OUR CORE VALUES

1. Excellence - Our Culture
2. Integrity - Our Promise

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| 3. Accountability | - Our Moral |
| 4. Servant Leadership | - Our Strength |
| 5. Team Spirit | - Our Dignity |
| 6. Autonomy and Responsibility | - Our Passion |
| 7. Adventist Heritage | - Our Commitment |

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Babcock University’s philosophy is anchored on the harmonious development of the intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual potentials of our students, inspiring stable and noble character needed for effective leadership and service in the society.

CORPORATE IMAGE STATEMENT: A center of excellence for character development and scholarship; a socially responsive, responsible, and accountable institution in matters of commitment and action.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines the concepts of “right” and “wrong” in human conduct from the perspectives of philosophical postulations and the Judeo-Christian thought. Various ethical options under the headings of absolutism and non-absolutism are identified. Specifically, antinomian concepts like situationism will be discussed. Other shades of absolutism; namely, unqualified absolutism, conflicting absolutism and graded (hierarchical) absolutism are included in the ethical options competing for relevance. The role of conscience in ethical decision-making is vital. Since life itself is a mixed grid of ethical issues, specific applications will be made to thorny and often volatile issues such as rape, Premarital Sex, Abortion, Divorce, Polygamy, Capital Punishment, etc.

Course Objectives:

1. To expose the students to the dynamics of revealed ethics with a special focus on biblical ethics.
2. To analyze the morality of man from the standpoint of the Christian faith.
3. To evaluate philosophical ethics vis-a-vis Christian ethics.
4. To discover strategies for educating the conscience that is answerable to God.
5. To equip the student with the requisite knowledge needed for grappling with crucial ethical issues in real life situations.

RATIONALE

The rationale for teaching this course could be summed as follows:

Babcock University, as a Seventh-day Adventist Institution of Higher Learning, has as one of its mission objectives the integration of faith and learning as a way of equipping men and women for the specific roles they will play in a world with diverse philosophy shaped by conflicting worldviews. Further, many seem to be lost in the morass of a variety of ethical options that they need a compass to guide them to make right ethical decisions. Consequently, it becomes imperative to teach a course of this nature and provide students opportunities to investigate ethical issues and make informed decisions and commitment to the Christian faith and practices.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

CLASS ATTENDANCE: - “Every student is required to attend classes regularly and punctually, unless ill or prevented by some recognized emergency. Students who absent themselves from class for more than three weeks during the semester shall merit an F grade. Authorized leave of absence from campus does not excuse the student from classes, or relieve the student of the required course work’ (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p.13*).

PARTICIPATION: -Students are to actively engage in topic discussion and sharing of ideas in class.

TARDINESS/CONDUCT OF STUDENTS IN CLASS: - Lateness to class is unacceptable; students are not allowed to operate their cell phones, iPods and other electronic mobile gadgets during classes, except with the permission of the teacher. Eating and chewing off bubble gums and drinking (water exempted) is also not allowed except with the permission of the teacher. Very importantly, students are required to dress in compliance with the university dress code and wear their identity cards while in class.

RESEARCH WORK: A research paper, minimum of twelve (12) pages and maximum of (15) pages of typewritten double-line spacing is required to be submitted by every students two weeks before the last day of class.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENT: As the teacher wishes to receive the assignments with the regulations of the Academic Bulletin.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments could be turned in earlier, but not later than the deadline set by the teacher.

GUIDELINE FOR WRITTEN WORK: This will be determined by the teacher.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY: “Babcock University has a zero tolerance for any form of academic dishonesty. Morally and spiritually, the institution is committed to scholastic integrity. Consequently, both students and staff are to maintain high, ethical Christian levels of honesty. Transparent honest behavior is expected of every student in all spheres of life. Academic dishonesty include such things as plagiarism, unauthorized use of notes or textbooks on quizzes and examinations, copying or spying the test or paper of another student (formal or take-home), talking to another student during examinations. Academic matter would automatically result in a failing grade for the examination, and suspension, or outright dismissal from the university. Academic dishonesty issues are referred to SPEAM (Senate Panel on Examination and Academic Misconduct) who investigates and makes recommendations to Senate. Penalties for examination and academic misconduct are spelt out in the *student’s handbook* and in other regulations as published from time to time” (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p.18*).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic dishonesty is any type of dishonesty that occurs in the academic setting. It can include:

1. *Plagiarism:* as described in the section “AUA” Statement on Plagiarism.”
2. *Fabrication:* falsifying of documents, data, information, or citations in any formal academic exercise.
3. *Deception:* providing false information or information intended to deceive or mislead an instructor concerning a formal academic exercise.
4. *Cheating:* Any attempt to copy the answers to an examination or homework assignment from another student or from some other source, or to give inappropriate assistance in an examination or other formal academic exercise.
5. *Bribery:* paying or attempting to pay for academic favors.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

“Students who believe that their academic rights have been infringed upon or that they have been unjustly treated with respect to their academic program are entitled to a fair and impartial consideration of their cases. They should do the following to effect a solution:

1. Present their case to the teacher(s) concerned
2. If necessary, discuss the problem with the Head of Department
3. If agreement is not reached at this level, submit the matter to the School Dean
4. Finally, ask for a review of the case by the Grievance Committee
5. A fee is charged for remarking of scripts. If a student’s grievance is upheld after an external examiner has remarked the script, the grade would be credited to the student. The lecturer will be given a letter of reprimand and will be asked to refund the fees to the

student. If the student’s grievance is not sustained, the student will be given a letter of reprimand and the original grade retained” (BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p.18).

TEACHING/LEARNING METHODOLOGIES:

1. Lectures
2. Group work and discussions
3. Case studies
4. Question-and-answer periods
5. Power Point Presentations
6. Interaction & integration of faith and BU core values
7. Examinations

COURSE ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

Continuous Assessment:

Class Attendance:	5% }	}	= 50%
Quizzes & Tests:	10% }		
Assignments:	20% }		
Mid-Semester Exam:	15% }		
Final Semester Exam:	50%		

GRADE SCALE

Currently, the 5-pointgrading system adopted by the University Senate translates as follows:

Grades	Marks-Quality	Range Points	Definition
A	80-100	5.00	Superior
B	60-79	4.00	Above Average
C	50-59	3.00	Average
D	45-49	2.00	Below Average
E	40-44	1.00	Pass
F	0-39	0.00	Fail

INCOMPLETE GRADE: An incomplete grade may only be assigned to a student upon request, due to an emergency situation that occurred within that semester, which prevented completion of an/some assignments, quizzes, or examination. Such a student would complete a contract form, obtainable from the Registrar, after agreement with the teacher. The form must be signed by the

teacher, the student, the HOD, the dean, the Registrar, and the Senior Vice President (SVP) before contract begins. The original copy of the incomplete form will be sent to the Registrar with copies to the teacher, the student, the HOD, the dean, and the SVP. An incomplete grade (I) reverts to the existing grade if contract is not completed by the end of the following semester (including summer semester, except for examinations), (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 20*).

SELECTED READINGS

Anderson, J. Kerby. *Genetic Engineering: The Ethical Issues*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Baker, William H. *On Capital Punishment*. Chicago: Moody, 1985.

Barclay, William. *Christian Ethics for Today*. New York: Harper and Row, 1984.

Charlmers, Elden N “Conscience” *Journal of Adventist Theological Society*, No 2 (6): 63-79.

Davis, John J. *Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today*, Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed publisher, 1985.

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Ethics: Options and Issues*. Grand Rapids, Michigam: Baker Book House Co. 1991.

Kunhiyop, Samuel W. *African Christian Ethics*. Nairobi, Kenya: WordAlive Publishers, 2008

Singer, Peter. *Practical Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

“Babcock University seeks to provide a conducive environment for optimal living and learning experience. While the university is working towards facilities that accommodate persons with disabilities, provisions will be made for students with disabilities under the following conditions. Students with disabilities are to:

- a. Report to Student Support Services for assessment, and obtain a clearance/recommendation at the commencement of the semester or as soon as disabling incidence occurs
- b. Show the clearance/recommendations to relevant university officials at the commencement of the semester or as soon as disabling incidence occurs
- c. Maintain ongoing contact with Student Support Services” (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 20*).

OUTLINE OF SCHEDULE:

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to modification as a result of the dynamism of this class. Therefore, the presentation of the various sub-themes may not follow the chronological order shown below. It is possible that some themes outlined here may be truncated, some omitted while others may be included and expanded as the needs arise.

I	Orientation and Introduction to the Course
II	Definition of Ethics
III	General Characteristics of Judeo-Christian Ethics
IV	. Ethical Options a. Antinomianism b. Situationism c. Absolutism.
V	Norms for Behaviour a. The function of Conscience 1. What is Conscience? 2. The good and bad Conscience. b. The place of the will in man's behaviour c. The law: its functions
VI	Applied Ethics. a. The Christian and Abortion* b. The Christian and Suicide c. The Christian and Poverty d. The Christian and Corruption*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e Reproductive Technologies f Prostitution and Sex Trafficking g The Christian and Witchcraft h The Christian and Homosexuality* i. The Christian and Divorce/Remarriage* j. The Christian and Capital Punishment* k The Christian and Rape l. The Christian and War m. The Christian and Tribalism n The Christian and Euthanasia/Infanticide
	Final Examination

September 2016