RELIGIOUS ETHICS AREA REQUIREMENTS

Description

The Religious Ethics area is concerned with the meaning of religion for the lives of persons and the ordering of societies, and, therefore, with problems of the good life, justice, and the common good. Study in the history and methods of religious and non-religious ethics is essential to work in the area. The examination of specific moral problems and the study of comparative religious ethics require work in the relevant social and historical sciences or in the professions. Students are thereby encouraged to pursue work in pertinent areas of the University outside of the Divinity School.

Statement of Written and Oral Examinations

A student concentrating in Religious Ethics will take three examinations in the area, including at least two of the following: RE I: Philosophical Ethics; RE II: Theological Ethics; RE III: Ethics and Political Life. The student must select another, third examination from those offered by the Area.

A student concentrating in Religious Ethics will submit for the oral examination a 20-25 page paper which typically engages one major thinker, relevant primary materials, and also important secondary scholarship with respect to a question pertinent to the student’s scholarly aspirations. This paper should, accordingly, explicate and assess the thinker(s) chosen and also advance, through that engagement, a constructive argument on the question. The paper should be distributed to examiners at least two weeks prior to the oral examination.

The distinctive business of the oral examination is to engage the submitted paper and pursue other lines of inquiry, especially, but not limited to, the written examinations.

Qualifying Examinations in Religious Ethics

Religious Ethics I: Philosophical Ethics
Religious Ethics II: Theological Ethics
Religious Ethics II: Ethics and Political Life
Religious Ethics IV: Ethics and the Social Sciences
Religious Ethics V: Comparative Religious Ethics
Religious Ethics VI: Moral Problems

Examination Bibliographies

RELIGIOUS ETHICS I: PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS
This examination asks the student to demonstrate knowledge of major historical writings in Western philosophical ethics. In Part A, students are responsible for representative figures in the history of philosophical ethics, as specified below. In Part B, students are responsible for the ethics of three recent authors. The three figures chosen by the student must be approved by the examiner. The list of thinkers under Part B is illustrative; the student may propose an alternative figure or figures.

Part A:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinker</th>
<th>Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
<td><em>The Republic</em></td>
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<td>Aristotle</td>
<td><em>Nichomachean Ethics</em></td>
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<td>Hobbes</td>
<td><em>Leviathan</em></td>
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<td>Hume</td>
<td><em>Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</em></td>
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<td>Mill</td>
<td><em>Utilitarianism</em></td>
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<td><em>On Liberty</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kant</td>
<td><em>Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals</em></td>
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<td>Hegel</td>
<td><em>Natural Law</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidgwick</td>
<td><em>Methods of Ethics</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore</td>
<td><em>Principia Ethica</em></td>
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Part B:

- Karl-Otto Apel
- Hannah Arendt
- John Dewey  
  - Alan Gewirth
- Jurgen Habermas
- R. M. Hare
- William James
  - Emmanuel Levinas
- Alasdair MacIntyre
- Iris Murdoch
- John Rawls
- Paul Ricoeur
- Jean Paul Sartre
- Alfred North Whitehead
RELIGIOUS ETHICS II:  THEOLOGICAL ETHICS

This examination has three parts constituted by major “periods” of the history of theological ethics. The core of the examination bibliography is the development and differentiation of Christian moral thinking. However, classic texts are set within and compared with the complexity of other traditions (philosophical, Jewish, Islamic) that intersect and often collide throughout the centuries of Western ethics. The examination thereby has an explicit comparative dimension and purpose.

The student is responsible for each of the parts of the examination. While the first two parts of the examination form a “set” exam with identical questions for all takers, the third part is "specialized" in accordance with each student's choice of two thinkers. Questions covering the bibliography in Parts I and II may be either from within each period or call for relating writings from different periods. Questions covering authors from Part III will be developed in accordance with the student's choice of readings and long terms scholarly interests.

Recommended Secondary Texts:

Albert Jonsen and Stephen Toulmin, The Abuse of Casuistry
G. F. Hourana, Reason and Tradition in Islamic Ethics
Kenneth E. Kirk, The Vision of God
Vladimir Lossky, Orthodox Theology: An Introduction
John Mahoney, The Making of Moral Theology
J. Meyendorff, Living Tradition
Peter Paris, The Social Teaching of the Black Churches
Servais Pinckaers, Les sources de la moral chrétienne
William Schweiker (ed), The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics
Ernst Troeltsch, The Social Teachings of the Christian Churches

Required Texts:

PART ONE:

Required

Bible:  Exodus 19:17-23:33; Leviticus 19; Amos; Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:20-49; Romans 12:1-15:13; I John
Qur’an: Surah 17 "The Children of Israel;" Surah 23 "The True ; Believers;"Surah 5 "The Feast"
Plato, Euthyphro
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, bks 1, 2, 10.
Epicurus, "Epicurus to Menoeceus;" "Principal Doctrines;" "Vatican Sayings"
Epictetus, Enchiridion
Clement, "The Rich Man's Salvation;" "On Spiritual Perfection" (Stromateis, VII) in Alexandrian Christianity
Augustine, On the Morals of the Catholic Church; The City of God, Books XIV and XIX; On Grace and Free Will; On the Good of Marriage.
Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, I, qqs. 5-6 (goodness and God); I-II, qqs. 6 and 8, 12-13 (human acts), 26 (love), 54-55 (virtue), 61-62 (cardinal and theological virtues), 90-95, 100 (law), 106-108 (new law); II-II, qqs. 25-26 (charity), 40 (war), 63 (respect), 64 (murder), 154 (sex).
al-Ghazzâlî, Confessions
Maimonides, Guide to the Perplexed in Ethical Writings, pp. 129-154; “Laws Concerning Character Traits” in Ethical Writings, pp. 27-58; Maimonides, “Eight Chapters” in Ethical Writings, pp. 59-104
Averroes, selection on free will and God's foreknowledge in Readings in Medieval Philosophy, pp. 209-213.

PART TWO:

Sixteenth Century: Required

Menno Simons, On the Ban, in Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers (LCC 25), pp. 261-271
John Calvin, Institutes, Book I chapter 2; Book II, chapters 7-9 (laws); Book III, chapter 2. i-vii, 6-8, 19 (the Christian life), Book IV, 20 (civil government).
Richard Hooker, Of The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, Book I.
Jesuit Moral Theology, excerpts in George Forell. ed., Christian Social Teachings, pp. 204-213.

Seventeenth-Eighteenth Centuries: Select Two.

B. Pascal, Provincial Letters, 4-15.
Joseph Butler, *Sermons* (selections)
John Wesley, in Albert Outler, ed., *John Wesley*, pp. 119-305.
Jonathan Edwards, *The Nature of True Virtue*
B. Spinoza, *Ethics* Part I; Part V

**Nineteenth-Twentieth Centuries: Select Three.**

S. Kierkegaard, *Works of Love* or *Training in Christianity.*
F.D. Maurice, *Social Morality.*
Walter Rauschenbusch, *Theology For The Social Gospel*
J. Meyendorff, *Marriage: An Orthodox Perspective* (selections)
S. S. Harakas, *Toward Transfigured Life: The Theoria of Orthodox Ethics* (selections)
Kenneth Kirk, *Conscience and Its Problems* (selections)
Karl Barth, *The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life*
Martin Buber, *I and Thou*
Abdolkarim Soroush, *Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam*
H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Responsible Self*
Reinhold Niebuhr, *An Interpretation of Christian Ethics*
Paul Tillich, *Morality and Beyond*

**PART THREE: (Select Two) The following names are only suggestions:**

RELIGIOUS ETHICS III: ETHICS AND POLITICAL LIFE

This examination asks the student to demonstrate knowledge of historical and contemporary theories in Western theology and political philosophy concerning the origin, ends, and legitimation of political communities. Special attention will be paid to the role religion plays in a particular thinker’s vision of political life. Is religion a core or peripheral value? Does religion offer specific legitimation of the ends of political life as well as its limits? Is politics central to human flourishing? What is the relationship of the religious order to the political order? And so on.

Students must have a command of the following texts or selections from texts.

Plato, The Republic
Aristotle, The Politics
Nicomachean Ethics, V
Augustine, The City of God, Pt.II,Bks.XI,XIV,XV,XIX,XX
The Confessions
Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, I-II,QQ.90-108;II-II, QQ.42, 57-58
M. Luther, On the Freedom of the Christian
Secular Authority. To what extent it should be obeyed?
Machiavelli, The Prince
T. Hobbes, The Leviathan, Parts I and II
J. Locke, The Second Treatise of Civil Government
Letter Concerning Toleration
J. Rousseau, The Second Discourse
The Social Contract
Hegel, The Philosophy of Right (Third Part)
J.S. Mill, On Liberty
S. Freud, Civilization and its Discontents
J. Dewey, The Public and its Problems
R. Niebuhr, The Essential Reinhold Niebuhr
Love and Justice
H. Arendt, The Human Condition
A. Camus, The Rebel
D. Bonhoeffer, Ethics
Letters and Papers from Prison
John Paul II Centesimus Annus

RELIGIOUS ETHICS IV: ETHICS AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The purpose of this examination is to explore, compare, and contrast alternative perspectives in the philosophy of the social sciences. Contrasting approaches will be analyzed with an emphasis on the implications of each for assessing connection
between religious ethics and the social sciences. With respect to some works on the bibliography, selections from them will be determined with the examiner.

Required Texts.

S. Freud, *New Introductory Lectures*
R. Bernstein, *Praxis and Action*
G. Winter, *Elements for a Social Ethic*
P. Winch, *The Idea of a Social Science*
B. Wilson, ed., *Rationality and Social Science* (selections)
A. MacIntyre, *Against the Self Images of the Age* (selections)
C. Taylor, *Philosophical Papers*, 2 volumes (selections)
J. Kovesi, *Moral Notions*
Rabinow and Sullivan, eds. *Interpretive Social Science: A Reader* (selections)
C. Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*
S. Hampshire, *Thought and Action*
P. Ricoeur, *Hermeneutics and the Social Sciences*
E. Erikson, *Identity and the Life Cycle*
D. Browning, *Religious Thought and Modern Psychologies*
E. Durkheim, *Moral Education*
M. Midgley, *Beast and Man*
T. Parsons,* The Evolution of Societies*
R. Abbey, ed., *Charles Taylor*
C. Taylor, *Malais of Modernity*
J. Elshtain, *Who are We? Critical Reflections and Hopeful Possibilities*
H. Daly and J. Cobb, *For the Common Good*
J. M. Gustafson, *Intersections*
John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens*

RELIGIOUS ETHICS V:  COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS ETHICS

The purpose of this examination is to address methodological and substantive matters in comparative religious ethics. A student will thereby be required (1) to have command of the basic required texts and thus conversant with major theoretical options for comparison and (2) select in consultation with appropriate faculty and additional five (5) texts from each of the two (2) traditions compared in this exam around a basic moral issue.

Required Texts:
The purpose of this examination is to address in some detail a specific moral problem (e.g., medicine research; war; ecology; economic justice) with theoretical clarity and descriptive depth and to reach a defensible normative judgment. Each student will be required to read a set bibliography on a range of books about a selected moral problem, and, additionally, determine, in consultation with appropriate faculty, other texts pertinent to her or his specific moral problem.

The bibliographic lists given below are illustrative of moral problems appropriate for this examination. Students may also petition to the Religious Ethics area to constitute an examining committee of additional, appropriate faculty members.

1. JUST WAR: THE ETHICS OF WAR-MAKING
In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

**Required Texts.**

M. Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*

P. Ramsey, *Just War: Force and Political Responsibility*

J. Elshtain, *Just War Against Terror*

Khadduri, *War and Peace in the Law of Islam*

L. Swift, ed., *The Early Fathers on War and Military Service.*

Augustine, *City of God*, Book I (1-7, 21), Book III (10, 114, 18-31), Book 5 (17, 22-23), Book 19 (in its entirety)

J. Elshtain, ed. *Just War Theory*

T. Aquinas, *Political Writings* Book I (1-5, 9-11,4,16), Book II (3), *Summa theologiae*, IIaIIae66 (‘On theft’), IIaIIae40 (‘On War’), IIaIIae42 (‘On sedition’, IIaIIae64 (‘on homicide’)

Luther, “Can a Christian be a soldier?” “The War Against the Turk”

De Vitoria, *Political Writings*, ed. Anthony Pagden and Jeremy Lawrance

R. Gordis, *Jewish Ethics for a Godless World*

Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*, Book I (63-65), Book 3 (34a-34b)

F. Russel, *The Just War in the Middle Ages*

H. Grotius, *Of the Rights of War and Peace* (Book I (1-3), Book II (22-25), Book III (1-4,11,13,15,17,19)

I. Kant, *On Perpetual Peace*

R. Niebuhr, *Love and Justice*

R. Lovin, *Reinhold Niebuhr and Christian Realism.*


G. Weigel, *Tranquillitas Ordinis. The Present Failure and Future Promise of American Catholic Thought on War and Peace.*


**Recommended Reading.**

M. Walzer, *Understanding War*

J. Elshtain, *Women and War*


D. DeCosse, ed., *But was it Just? Reflections on the Morality of the Persian Gulf War.*


2. ECONOMICS

In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

John Kenneth Galbraith. *Economics and the Public Purpose.*
Herman Daly and John B. Cobb, Jr. *For the Common Good.*
John Paul II. *Laborem Exercens.*

3. ECOLOGICAL ETHICS

In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

Green Halo
Mary Midgley, *Man and Beast.*
Jürgen Moltmann, *God in Creation.*
Holmes Rolston, *Philosophy Gone Wild.*
Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation.*
Mick Smith, *The Ethics of Place.*
H. Jonas, The Imperative of Responsibility

4. MEDICAL ETHICS

In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

Tom Beauchamp and James Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 5th ed.
Francis Fukyama, Our Posthuman Future
Jurgen Habermas, Future of Human Nature
William F. May, The Physician's Covenant
Edward Pelligrina and David Thomasma, Philosophical Basis of Medical Practice
Paul Ramsey, The Patient as Person
Paul Ramsey, Fabricated Man
Peter Singer, Unsanctifying Human Life
Leon Kass, Life, Liberty and the Defense of Dignity

5. THE ETHICS OF DEMOCRACY

In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

M. Sandel, Democracy's Discontents
J. Elstain, Democracy on Trail
F.I. Gamwell, Democracy on Purpose
R. Putnam, Bowling Alone
J. Dewey, The Public and Its Problems
R. Niebuhr, The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness
J. Addams, Democracy and Social Ethics
J. Elstain (ed), The Jane Addams Reader (selections)
John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis; Centesimus Annus
The Federalist Papers (selections)
A. Lincoln, Collected Speeches and Other Writings (selections)

6. GENDER, POLITICS AND ETHICS

In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.
J. B. Elshtain, *Public Man, Private Woman: Women in Social and Political Thought*
C. Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*
M. Beard, *Women as Force in History*
S. de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
M. Fuller, *The Writings of Margaret Fuller*
E. C. Stanton, *The Solitude of Self*
J. B. Elstain (ed), *The Family in Political Thought*
M. Wollstonecraft, *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
J. Mitchell, *Woman’s Estate*
M. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere, *Woman, Culture and Society*
J. Sherman and E. Beck, *The Prism of Sex: Essays in the Sociology of Knowledge*

7. RACE AND ETHICS

In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

A. B. Anderson and G. W. Pickering *Confronting the Color Line*
L. Bennett, Jr. *Before the Mayflower*
Katie Cannon *Black Womanist Ethics*
J. Cone *Black Theology and Black Power*
F. Douglas *Life and Times of Frederick Douglas*
D. Hopkins *Shoes That Fit Our Feet*
M. L. King, Jr. *Why We Can’t Wait?*
M. L. King, Jr. *Where Do We Go From Here?*
Malcolm X *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
P. Paris *The Social Teachings of the Black Churches.*
M. J. Perry *We the People: The Fourteenth Amendment and the Supreme Court*
J. D. Skrentny *The Ironies of Affirmative Action*
C. West *Prophesy Deliverance.*
C. West *Race Matters*

8. ETHICS AND GLOBALIZATION
In consultation with the examiner, a student taking the exam will select additional texts that address her or his specific interests, and, with the same end in view, other texts may be substituted for some of those below.

W. Schweiker,  
M. Stackhouse (ed),  
A. Appadurai,  
S. Benhabib,  
A. Giddens,  
D. Harvey,  
S. Hauerwas,  
H. Kung,  
H. Jonas,  
E. Levinas,  
J. Milbank,  
M. Nussbaum,  
R. Robertson,  
S. Sassen,  

Theological Ethics and Global Dynamics  
God and Globalization 4 vols. (Selections)  
Modernity at Large  
Situating the Self  
Modernity and Self-Identity  
The Condition of Postmodernity  
Christian Existence Today  
Global Responsibility  
The Imperative of Responsibility  
Humanism of the Other  
Theology and Social Theory  
Women and Development  
Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture  
Globalization and its Discontents