

TH 202

Foundations of Orthodox Christian Ethics

Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

I. Course Description

This course covers the issues involved in ethics from an Orthodox Christian perspective, establishing the theological foundations and relating them to philosophical and practical issues. Evil and sin are discussed in terms of experience and therapy. Human moral capacity, natural moral law and related issues are covered in connection with the Scriptures and the Fathers. Ethical decision-making is related to the evangelical ethic and confirmation to the image and likeness of God. This is an upper level course. Therefore, students should have some background in both theology and philosophy as a prerequisite.

II. At the conclusion of this course, students will have:

- A. A grasp of the basic principles of Orthodox Christian ethics.
- B. A preliminary sense of how to apply them to their life.

III. Materials Needed

- 1. Stanley A. Harakas, *Toward Transfigured Life*, Minneapolis: Light and Life Publishing Co., 1983.
- 2. Supplementary: Dagabert D. Runes, *Dictionary of Philosophy*, Totowa, New Jersey: Littlefield, Adams & Co., 1960.

IV. Course Content

- Lesson I: Why Study Christian Ethics
- Lesson II: The Theological Foundations for Ethics
- Lesson III: Attempts to Define Ultimate Good
- Lesson IV: Sin, Wickedness, and the Reality of Evil
- Lesson V: The Moral Capabilities of Human Beings
- Lesson VI: Natural Moral Law in Orthodox Christian Ethics
- Lesson VII: The Evangelical Ethic
- Lesson VIII: Being a Moral Person
- Lesson IX: Ethical Decision-Making
- Lesson X: Living the Image and Likeness of God

V. Assignments

For each lesson, write 250-500 words in total for each assignment in each lesson, double-spaced. Each lesson will account for 10% of your grade. Faculty will give substantive commentary on all assignments. Final exam details, if applicable, are explained in the virtual classroom content on moodle.com.

VI. Attendance

We do not have an official attendance policy due to the nature of being a self-paced course (faculty are expected to engage with each student at least once per week through moodle.com).

VII. Participation

All students must engage at least once per week in the asynchronous forum discussion group. Access is made available in the virtual classroom.