Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the student to the various approaches to ethics from a historical, philosophical and biblical perspective. The course will also focus on recent developments in narrative ethics and attempt to develop a deeper appreciation for the complexity of Christian ethics as biblically based. As a part of the course we will look at several issues as a means of illustrating what Christian ethics should be.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will be better informed regarding the history of ethics and particularly the church’s role in the ethical task.
2. The student will be better informed regarding the central issues, both philosophical and theological, which have driven the course of ethical history.
3. The student will be better equipped to answer the pressing questions of the day in a manner consistent with Christian confession and practice.

Course Requirements:

1. The student must do all the reading/listening prescribed for the course. This includes:

   - Oliver O'Donovan, *Resurrection and Moral Order*
   - Charles Marsh, *God's Long Summer*
   - Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*
   - Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Just War Against Terror*
   - Texts, Sex, and Sanctity: Robert Gagnon on Homosexuality and the Bible (Mars Hill Audio) [Available in bookstore]

2. A discussion guide must be prepared for the following films:

   **Directions for Discussion Guide** The discussion guide should be written for a specific audience (you may use the same audience for each film/guide). Please describe your audience at the beginning of the guide. The guide should be a series of discussion questions prompted by specific episodes in the film being discussed. These should not be informational questions (although you might need to set the context for some viewers) but questions that lead the discussant to the heart of the matter, to the real core of the issues that drive the film. There should be some biblical references that accompany each question so that discussion could be directed back toward the scriptures and away from mindless chatter. You might even reference other works, e.g., philosophers, historians, novels, poets, etc. (15% of grade)

   - *Shattered Glass*
   - *Ghosts of Rwanda*
There will be a final examination. The final will count for 40% of the final grade (exam will be take home).

You will write a 10 page book review of *God’s Long Summer* for 10% of your final grade (due Oct. 7).

You will write a 10 page book analysis of Miroslav Volf’s *Exclusion and Embrace*.

Your discussion guides will be due October 28th and are worth 15% of your grade.

You will write a 15-20 page paper for 20% of your final grade (due Nov. 18th). The assigned topic for this year is: Is the War on Terror a ‘Just War’ and how can we know? You have accepted a call to serve as pastor of a church in Ithaca NY. You are surrounded by every flavor of political discourse (mostly anti-war) and your first contacts from the campus are anti-war activists who are also professing Christians. Does the gospel speak to this issue? You are asked to lead a series of bible-study/discussion group meetings with young believers and ‘seekers’. Consider this paper assignment the groundwork for such a series. Be as theoretical/theological as you want. This paper is the groundwork for war in general and the war on terror in particular, not a series of sermons on war.

Note: All papers must be typed (double-spaced) and submitted on the dates noted above. No exceptions will be made.

Exam will cover lecture materials as well as readings.