



AUTOMNE/FALL 2024

DIPLÔME EN THÉOLOGIE ORTHODOXE (2e CYCLE)

ORTHODOX ETHICS (THL-6201)

Professor Rev. Fr. Athanasios GIOCAS
Email: fatherathanasios@orthodoxchurch.ca

Thursday Evenings (6-9 p.m.) through Video Conferencing
From September 5 to December 12, 2024

Christian ethics seeks to define behavior as virtuous or not from a Christian point of view. For Orthodox Christians, such an approach may be problematic in as much as it seeks to establish, from the outset and in advance, conduct which is meant to be determined and understood in the context of one's personal participation in the ecclesial encounter with God.

Nonetheless, a group reflection on ethical issues according to the Orthodox Christian perspective can be a fruitful enterprise in order to better understand how our faith informs both new and old issues and debates of an ethical nature. The essential point is to learn to connect these debates to the basic tenets of the Orthodox tradition, and to work through even the most controversial of issues with reference to the vast theological resources of the Orthodox Christian tradition. Naturally, this approach can only be complementary to an ongoing holistic commitment and journey in the faith. At the same time, Orthodox faithful are called to confidently interact and cooperate on a range of topics with persons whose worldview or comprehensive doctrine may be entirely different from their own.

The course aims to expose students to Christian ethics from an Orthodox Christian perspective. In practical terms, the course is comprised of two main parts. During the first part, students are introduced to the basic principles and methodologies of approaching Christian ethics from an Orthodox perspective, with the help of biblical resources, and readings from patristic and modern authors. In the second part, the sessions will be devoted to specific applied topics, namely: ecology and environment, economy, bioethics, political organization, criminal justice, marriage and divorce, and war. The applied topics will be discussed with the benefit of relevant course materials and case studies.