



The aim of the Lay School of Religion Program has been to maintain quality instruction, to create an atmosphere for Christian fellowship and dialogue, and to encourage growth in faith and understanding to enhance the local church's efforts to develop deeper and stronger faith communities for nurture, witness, mission, and leadership.

Individuals may take a single class or pursue Lay School of Religion graduation. For more information about the Northwest Ohio Association Lay School of Religion, please contact: joan@nwoa.org or by calling the Association office 419-447-8323

MEET THE INSTRUCTOR

Starting her 17th teaching year at Terra State Community College, Tamara Kagy, currently teaches the courses of Critical Thinking and Introduction to Ethics in the department of Business, Liberal Arts and Humanities.

Through her work experience as a musician and academic teacher, Tamara has been able to build a worldview of how morality/ethics and human relationships impact the quality of one's spiritual connection to family, church, and community at large. Her extensive reading and study of ethics brings the contemporary issues we face as neighbors, church members, and community to the table for analysis and discussion.

She is an active free-lance musician (flutist). She is a current member of the Lakeside Symphony Orchestra, the HIGH FREQUENCY Flute Quartet and the American Federation of Musicians.

Tamara holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and a master's degree from B.G.S.U.

She resides in Norwalk with her U.C.C. pastor husband, Tom, and several co-dependent cats.

***Northwest Ohio
Association
Lay School of Religion***



***Morality and Ethics
Fall 2024***

***Class begins
September 10, 2024
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.***

Please note concurrent and gap weeks

***September 17
October 1
October 15
October 29
November 5
November 12
December 3***

***Classes will be
via Zoom***

WHY ETHICS?

“We go to church, so we got this down!”



This is a common statement when the topic of ethics comes up. About everyone has what they consider to be their core beliefs. But seldom do they reflect upon where those beliefs come from and if they are truly sound.

This course will provide an overview into the nature of philosophy/morality/ethics as it relates to daily life in its small and large applications. A course in ethics will not tell you what to think, but rather how to come to conclusions of right/wrong, good/bad, just/unjust and to determine how to get to a manageable degree in fairness when the situation calls for it. We will explore how to build a moral argument to set your stance on firm ground. A historical overview of the most common ethical theories and how they evolved will bring us to the contemporary issues that face us and our churches today.

GOALS OF THE CLASS

- ❖ Gain an understanding of what constitutes moral thought and how it differentiates from etiquette or opinions.
- ❖ Learn how to build and how to listen to logical moral arguments.
- ❖ Become familiar with the idea that morality may not depend on church experience.
- ❖ Understand the many theories that can be used to substantiate one's stance in logical thinking.
- ❖ Become able to see the connection of Jesus' teachings with western moral thought.
- ❖ Apply moral arguments to the student's own lived experience.

=====

RESOURCES

Modern Ethics in 77: A Stone Reader. Edited by Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley. Published by Liveright. 2017 or 2018. ISBN 978-1-63419-399-7 Amazon has this in different formats. Hard copy or eBook is fine. (required)

Instructor will provide other materials.

NRSV edition of the Bible will be resourced.

FOCUS OF CLASS

Like critical thinking, the use of ethical thought is a learned skill that involves logic, critical thinking, and the ability to analyze one's own stance regarding others. This course will provide the tools necessary to engage in an active moral life. There will be assigned weekly readings and 2 written projects. The instructor will supply enrichment resources. A detailed syllabus with reading assignments will be shared at the first class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Note concurrent and gap weeks

Sept 10: Introductions and class overview. Why Ethics? What is human nature?

Sept 17: Free will or determinism. Nihilism and subjectivism explored.

Oct 1: Morality and religion/natural law. Insight into cultural relativism.

Oct 15: Supporting your stance in moral arguments.

Oct 29: Overview of traditional moral theories.

Nov 5: Overview of traditional moral theories, con't.

Nov 12: Real People, Real World, right now. Contemporary issues in ethics.

Dec 3: What would Jesus do? What DID Jesus do?