An Introductory Guide to American Doctoral Programs in Ethics

Foreward: Many students have asked us to point them toward doctoral programs in Christian Ethics. What follows is an introduction to some of the programs most on my radar, either from colleagues I have that teach in these programs or former students of mine who have went on to attend these programs. Please understand that this is merely a compilation of information, and it is the responsibility of the interested applicant to verify that the information has not changed. This is simply a starting point.

For a more comprehensive list of programs, visit
http://www.scethics.org/resources/doctorate-programs

Good luck!

The Center for Theology and Public Life
Mercer University
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Ph.D. Program in Theology with Theological Ethics Specialization

Theological Ethics prepares its graduates for not only teaching and but also research positions that call for specialization in this area. It includes the ecumenical study of major Roman Catholic and Protestant thinkers; moreover, it attends to the Biblical foundations and theological contexts of ethics. In line with the conviction that faith and reason are complementary, the program explores the contributions of philosophical thought, both past and present. It includes a strong social ethics component, as well as offerings in other areas of applied ethics. The exploration of contemporary ethics is set in a critical, historical perspective and encourages focus on the global and multicultural character of the Christian community.

Application at a glance

- January 3: Application Deadline
- GRE to be taken by mid-November
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Statement of Purpose (approximately three pages)
  - please discuss your interest in the program
  - please discuss your academic goals
- Writing Sample (not to exceed 25 pages)
  - a course paper or equivalent
- Curriculum Vitae
  - a list of academic and work experience

Faculty

- **Lisa Sowle Cahill**, J. Donald Monan Professor
  - Recent Publications
    - *Bioethics and the Common Good* (Marquette University Press, 2004)
    - *Theological Bioethics: Justice, Participation and Change* (Georgetown University Press, 2005)
  - Current Research Project: Book Project on Fundamental Theological Ethics

- **Roberto S. Goizueta**, Margaret O’Brien Flatley Professor
  - Recent Publications
  - Current Research Project: Theological Aesthetics and Liberation

- **Kenneth R. Himes, O.F.M.**
  - Recent Publications
    - “Globalization with a Human Face,” *Theological Studies* 69 (June 2008) 269-289
    - Editor, Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations (Georgetown University Press, 2005).
  - Current Research Project: Introductory Text on Christianity and Politics.
• **David Hollenbach, S.J.** University Chair in Human Rights and International Justice; Director, Center for Human Rights and International Justice
  o Recent Publications
    ▪ *Refugee Rights: Ethics Advocacy, and Africa* (Georgetown University Press, 2008)
  o Current Research Project: Ethical and Human Rights issues raised by humanitarian crises and the displacement of refugees, especially in Africa.

• **Thomas Massaro, S.J.**
  o Recent Publications

• **Stephen J. Pope**
  o Recent Publications
  o Current Research Project: peace, justice and reconciliation; science and ethics; natural law and the virtue of charity.
Doctor of Theology in Social and Theological Ethics

The Th.D. degree program is offered to students wishing to enhance their knowledge and ministerial skills and/or teaching competence in certain advanced areas of theology and ministry. It has a stronger academic specialization than the D. Min; nonetheless, it differs from the Ph.D. in its integrative character and clear connection to the church. The degree program has an interdisciplinary design based on one major discipline (eight courses) and one minor discipline (four courses). The major and minor disciplines are integrated and intertwined in a particular theme or program; an adequate rationale in terms of the applicant’s vocation must be included in the personal statement of the application. Admission, when granted, is to the disciplines specified in the application. A subsequent request to change a major or minor will be treated as a reapplication. The student’s selection of a major and a minor must be sufficiently distinct so that the proposed integration can be significant.

Application at a glance

- December 15: Application Deadline
- no minimum GRE score
- institution code: R3070
- average GPA of 3.3 or higher will be considered for merit scholarships
- resume/CV
- personal statement
  - in 2000 words or less, please describe your goals in undertaking doctoral studies in your given field, including an indication, even if only general at this juncture, of your proposed focus and research
  - additionally, how have your experience and study to this point helped prepare you for this doctoral program and your proposed research focus
- writing sample (not to exceed 30 pages)
  - scholarly writing
- four (4) letters of reference: one (1) pastoral reference and three (3) academic references

Faculty

- Walter E. Fluke, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership
  - Recent Publications
    - Ethical Leadership: The Quest for Character, Civility and Community (Fortress Press, 2009).
• **John Hart**, Professor of Christian Ethics
  o Teaching Interests: social ethics, environmental ethics, liberation theology and ethics, and science and Christianity.
  o Research Interests: issues of social and ecological justice, ecology as a bridge between science and religion.
  o Books in Process
    ▪ *Sacred Cosmos, Sacred Commons*—*Spirit, Science and Nature*
    ▪ *Spirit on the Mountain*—*Mediations*

• **Wesley J. Wildman**, Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics
  o Research and Teaching Interests: contemporary Christian theology, philosophy of religion, and religion and science.
PhD in Religion with a focus in Religion, Ethics, and Society

The Ph.D. program in Religion, Ethics, and Society (RES) focuses on the intersection of the religious, the ethical, and the political. Viewing religion as both a source and subject for ethical reflection, students and faculty train their eyes on public spaces and the people who interact there as they engage pressing social, economic, and political questions. In order to prepare students to engage this pluralistic, public space, students are engaged with dialogic competencies, knowledge of religious traditions other than their own, resources for theological reflection, a facility with a variety of methods for moral deliberation, and the critical tools for analysis and argumentation required to contribute thoughtful, publicly defensible ethical assessment.

The RES program is designed to provide a solid foundation in ethics while offering students the flexibility and resources necessary to develop an expertise in a cognate field (such as public policy, political theory, theology, or cultural studies). The core courses of the program cover philosophical, theological and religious, and social ethics. Because ethics is an inherently interdisciplinary field, students will be encouraged to take courses in other schools within the Claremont Graduate University.

Application at a glance

- December 15: Application Deadline
- no minimum GRE score; institution code: 0220
- resume/CV
- personal statement
- writing sample
- three (3) academic references
- $50

Faculty

- Richard Amesbury, Associate Professor of Ethics
  - Research: intersection of ethics, political theory, and philosophy of religion; explores ethical problems in complex, pluralist societies
  - Current project: Secular State/Religious Nation: Imagining Religion in America
• Grace Yia-Hei Kao, Associate Professor of Ethics
  o Research interests: human rights, religion in the public sphere in the U.S.,
    ecofeminism, and Asian American Christianity
  o Publications: *Grounding Human Rights in a Pluralist World* (Georgetown Press,
    April 2011), Grace Y. Kao, "Moving Forward by Agreeing to Disagree: A
    Grace Y. Kao, "Mission Impossible: 'Nonsectarian' Prayer in the Military
    Universal Versus the Particular in Ecofeminist Ethics," *Journal of Religious
    Ethics* 38.4 (2010): 616-637., Elizabeth Bucar, Grace Y. Kao, Irene Oh, "Sexing
    Comparative Ethics: Bringing Forth Feminist and Gendered Perspectives,"
    *Journal of Religious Ethics* 38.4 (2010): 654-659., Grace Y. Kao,
    Ramón Luzárraga, and Darryl Trimiew, with introductory remarks by Christine E.
    Gudorf, "Managing Diversity in Academe," *Journal of the Society of Christian
    Ethics* 28.2 (2008): 115-147., Grace Y. Kao, "For All Creation," in *To Do Justice:
    A Guide for Progressive Christians*, eds. Rebecca Toddie Peters & Elizabeth
    Grace Y. Kao, "The Logic of Anti-Proselytization, Revisited," in *Proselytization
    Copulsky, "The Pledge of Allegiance and the Meanings and Limits of Civil
    *This article was ranked as one of the JAAR's top ten full-text downloads for
    2008., Grace Kao,"Consistency in Ecofeminist Ethics: Contextual Moral
    Vegetarianism and Abortion", *International Journal of the Humanities

• Santiago Slabodsky, Assistant Professor of Ethics of Globalization
  o Research interests: global ethics, intersection between Jewish and Postcolonial
    social theories
  o Publications: "It is the History, Stupid!: A Dialectical Reading of the Utopian
    Limitations of the 'Occupy' Movements" *Journal of Peace Studies* V.1 (2012): 46-
    56.; "Space and Periphery: Toward a Latin-American Jewish Philosophy" *E.I.A.L.
    Journal of the Sverdlin Institute of Latin American History and Culture at the U.
    of Tel Aviv*[forthcoming. Co-authored with Emmanuel Taub]; "Just Justice you
    Shall Pursue" *Global Perspectives on the Bible*Mark Roncace and Joe Weaver
    eds. (Delaware: Prentice Hall) [forthcoming]; "Reading the Talmud in
    Bethlehem" in Mitri Raheb ed. *Biblical Texts, UR-Contexts and Contemporary
    Realities*(Jerusalem/Bethlehem: Dyar Publisher) [forthcoming]; "Emmanuel
    Levinas' Geopolitics: Overlooked Conversations between Rabbinical and Third
    World Decolonialisms" *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* XVIII.2
    (2010), 147-165.; "De-Colonial Jewish Thought and the Americas" *Post-Colonial
    Philosophy of Religion*, eds. Purshumottama Bilimoria and Andrew Irvine
    (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer, 2010), 251-272.; "But There Are No
    Longer any anti-Semites: Vicious Circles, Jewish Destinies, & an Alternative
    Framework to Understand De-colonial Discourses" *Human Architecture: Journal
    of Sociology of Self-Knowledge* VII.2 (Fall, 2009), 35-52.; "Liberation

- **Helene Slessarev-Jamir**, Mildred M. Hutchinson Professor of Urban Studies; Professor of Ethics, Politics, and Society
  - Research interests: the character of religiously inspired justice work in response to globalization and American empire, congregational community organizing, activism in support of worker justice, immigrant rights, peace-making, and ending global poverty
ThD Program
The Doctor of Theology program provides students with academically rigorous training, comparable to the demands of the Ph.D., focused on the ministries and practices of Christian communities. The program centers upon areas of study such as worship, preaching, evangelism, and the arts. At the same time, as an integral component of its mission, the Th.D. program seeks to reconfigure the way in which such practices are brought into creative interdisciplinary conversation with the established academic discourses of biblical studies, historical studies, and theology and ethics. Moreover, the interdisciplinary scope of the program extends to other areas of the university and addresses fresh areas of research such as the intersection of Divinity and Health Care, or Peacemaking and Reconciliation.

Application at a glance
- GRE scores required
- 4 letters of recommendation
- 2 page essay of goals
- academic writing sample

Faculty
- **Luke Bretherton**- Associate Professor of Theological Ethics and Senior Fellow, Kenan Institute for Ethics
  - Research interests: theological ethics, Christian political thought, missiology and practices of social, political and economic witness
- **Amy Laura Hall**- Associate Professor of Christian Ethics
  - Research interests: theological and biomedical ethics
- **Stanley Hauerwas**- Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics
  - Research interests: systematic theology, philosophical theology and ethics, political theory, as well as the philosophy of social science and medical ethics
- **Allen Verhey**- Professor of Christian Ethics
  - Research interests: application of Christian ethics, especially in the area of medical and health practice
  - Book: Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine
PhD in Ethics and Society
The Ethics and Society (ES) Course of Study offers interdisciplinary studies centered on ethics and the sociology of religion. It fosters a scholarly conversation in which students are encouraged to draw deeply and widely on theological and philosophical traditions in ethics, while situating moral issues and public policies in their institutional and cultural contexts. Through the social, cultural, and comparative study of religion it prepares students to analyze the social institutions, everyday practices, and cultural expressions of religious life and moral discourse. Students may concentrate either in ethics or in religion and society. They share work in social theory, social philosophy, and Christian social teaching to map the mutuality of moral meaning and social structures. Concentrators in ethics may combine studies in theological and philosophical ethics with special interests in social, political, professional or policy ethics (such as biomedical, environmental, or business ethics); practical theology; conflict transformation; virtue ethics and moral development; feminist and womanist ethics; ethics and the Black Church; and comparative religious ethics, particularly in Judaism, Islam, or Hinduism. Students in religion and society may combine the sociology and anthropology of religion, including the study of congregational and denominational life, with special interests in Judaism, gender, religious practices, religion and American culture, politics and public life; Black Church studies; urban-suburban social change; moral psychology; and the sociology of morality, culture, or law. Students in Ethics and Society are prepared for a wide variety of teaching, research, and administrative positions in academic and religious institutions. The resources available to them extend well beyond those of the Course of Study itself. They enjoy extraordinary opportunities offered by Emory University's Center for Ethics in Public Policy and the Professions; Emory Law School's Center for the Study of Law and Religion; the Emory Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life; and the Carter Center of Emory University, which includes a special focus on human rights and conflict resolution. Many students draw on offerings across the Graduate Division of Religion and in other areas of the university. These include the Departments of Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Political Science, Women's Studies, the Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts; and the Schools of Medicine and Public Health. In addition, the greater Atlanta area offers such resources as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, several other major universities, and schools of theology.

Application at a glance
- December 20, 2012: Application Deadline
- no minimum GRE score; institution code: 5187
- resume/CV
- transcripts
- personal statement (4 pages)
- writing sample (20 pages)
- three (3) academic references

Faculty
- Elizabeth Bounds, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics
• Ellen Ott Marshall, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Conflict Transformation
  o Research interests: violence and peacemaking, ethical questions in literature and film, dynamic relationship between faith, history, and ethics
  o Publications: Choosing Peace through Daily Practices (Pilgrim Press, 2005), contributing editor; Though the Fig Tree Does Not Blossom: Toward a Responsible Theology of Christian Hope (Abingdon Press, 2006); Christians in the Public Square: Faith that Transforms Politics (Abingdon Press, 2008)

• Timothy P. Jackson, Professor of Christian Ethics
  o Research interests: moral philosophy and theology, especially the relationship between secular and Christian conceptions of truth, goodness, justice, freedom, and mercy

• Abdullah Ahmed An-Nacim, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law
  o Research interests: human rights, comparative law, Islamic law

• Michael S. Berger, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
  o Research interests: religious authority, rabbinic literature, development of Jewish law in Judaism
  o Publications: Rabbinic Authority (1998), The Emergence of Ethical Man (2005)

• Don Seeman, Associate Professor
  o Research interests: anthropology of experience and phenomenology of religion, modern Jewish thought and mysticism, medical anthropology, and the ethnography of contemporary Israel

• Steve Tipton, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Sociology and Religion
  o Research interests: institutional logics of American religion and politics, sociology of morality
and Commitment in American Life (University of California Press, 1985), co-author; Getting Saved from the Sixties: Moral Meaning in Conversion and Cultural Change (University of California Press, 1982)
PhD in Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy

The program in religion, ethics, and philosophy is designed to train scholars in (1) the philosophical and theoretical analysis of religious phenomena; (2) modern and historic expressions of religious thought, particularly in Europe and North America; (3) comparative analysis of the religious, philosophical, and ethical traditions of Europe and North America with those of the Middle East, South and East Asia; (4) historical and contemporary literature related to political ethics, the justification and conduct of war, the nature and scope of human rights discourse, and issues in ethics and the life sciences. To this end, students concentrating in religion, ethics, and philosophy take courses dealing with theory and method in the study of religion, hermeneutics, philosophy of religion, modern and historic expressions of religious thought, religious and philosophical ethics, and other topics related to the overall goals of the program. While the Department of Religion offers a rich variety of courses in this area, students are also encouraged, in consultation with area faculty, to take courses across the University. The Departments of Philosophy, Sociology, Classics, History, English, and Modern Languages are particularly relevant, as are the programs in Humanities and American and Florida Studies and in the College of Law.

Application at a glance

- December 15, 2012: Application Deadline
- GRE
- transcripts
- personal statement (2 pages)
- writing sample
- three (3) letters of references
- list of the Religion courses you have taken and grades for those courses

Faculty

- **Matthew Day** - Assistant Professor of Religion; Associate Director, Program in the History and Philosophy of Science
  - Research areas: early modern natural philosophy, history of science, history of Western religious thought, 19th and 20th c. Anglo-American Philosophy
- **Sarah Irving** - Assistant Professor of Religion
  - Research areas: science and religion, the British Empire
- **Aline Kalbian** - Associate Professor of Religion
  - Research areas: Catholic Moral Theology, Gender and Religion, Bioethics and Religion
  - Selected publications: *Sexing the Church: Gender, Power and Ethics in Contemporary Catholicism* (Indiana University Press, 2005)
- **Martin Kavka**
- Research areas: Continental Philosophy of Religion, phenomenology, Jewish philosophy, Jewish metaethics
  - John Kelsay
    - Research areas: Comparative religious ethics, political ethics, religion and war
  - Sumner Twiss
    - Research interests: comparative religious ethics, comparative moral and religious thought, human rights in cross-cultural perspective, philosophy and theory of religion
Ph.D. in Theology with a focus on Christian Ethics
The PhD in Theology, the highest degree offered by the School of Theology, prepares students for a vocation in theological teaching and scholarship by: equipping them with the essential tools for high-level scholarship; guiding them in a major research project in the area of their major concentration; and supporting the development of teaching skills.

Application at a glance
- January 2: Application Deadline
- GPA: at least 3.5 (required)
- GRE score(s): verbal 600 and writing score of 5.0
- Writing Sample: 7000-10,000 words
  - completed within 3 years of the time of making the application, in the field of proposed study
  - this essay will be evaluated in terms of clarity of its thesis, its ability to maintain an argument, its critical engagement with relevant primary and secondary sources, and its professional presentation
- religious autobiography
- three (3) academic references

Faculty
- Erin E. Dufault-Hunter, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics
  - Recent Publications
    - contributor to The Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics (forthcoming);
  - Research: Narrative theory, sociology of religion, multiculturalism, sexuality, gender, bioethics
- Howard J. Loewen, Dean and Professor of Theology and Ethics.
  - Research: scripture and tradition, systematic theology, theological ethics, Anabaptist-Mennonite theology, Karl Barth and evangelicism, just peacemaking theology, Spiritual and ecumenical formation.
- Glen H. Stassen, Professor of Christian Ethics
  - Recent Publications:
    - co-edited John Howard Yoder’s War of the Lamb: The Ethics of Nonviolence and Peacemaking (Brazos Press, 2009)
    - Peace Living the Sermon on the Mount (2006)
Ph.D. in Ethics and Social Theory
The doctoral program in Ethics and Social Theory at Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley prepares students to contextualize the major figures in the expansion of ethics and social theory, to do research, construct an ethical case, and conduct critical social analysis. With these skills, students have gone on to teach ethics, social ethics, and social theory not only undergraduate and graduate programs in colleges, universities, and seminaries; to offer leadership to organizations, agencies, or corporations; and to serve churches at all levels: local, regional, national, and global. As one matures in the program, one becomes more apt to speaking and writing on ethical matters in the public sphere.

Application at a glance
- December 15: Application Deadline
- take GRE exam by mid-November
- Institution Code: 4336
- two (2) transcripts of all college-level work
- statement of purpose (300-500 words, relatively brief)
  - this should succinctly but specifically outline and summarize your goals and plans for doctoral level study, as well as your academic interests
  - a strong statement of purpose is one that articulates research objectives and envisions the main components of studies required in hope of the dissertation
  - a well-crafted statement should also clearly show how the resources of the GTU and your chosen area of study would assist you in attaining the goals and plans one have outlined
  - it should touch on your academic background (including language preparation), indicating how this foundation will contribute to your proposed further study
- writing sample (academic paper of no more than 20 pages, the more recent the better)
  - the paper does not necessarily have to be directly linked to your specific research proposal, however, it should show your ability to do scholarly work in that area
  - If you are submitting part of a thesis, provide a succinct statement that explains the context of the whole document
- three (3) academic letters of recommendation

Faculty
- **Jerome P. Baggett**, Associate Professor of Religion and Society
  - Research: sociology of religion; religion and politics; social theory; American Catholicism; social movements and civil society; the new atheism in American culture
- **James A. Donahue**
  - Research: virtues, practices and religious ethics; professional ethics; ethical perspectives in the media; institutional and organizational ethics; ethics and leadership; religion and social theory; religion and politics; comparative religious ethics
- **Lisa Fullam**
  - Research: moral theology; virtue ethics; Ignatian spirituality; sexual ethics; medical and bioethics
- **Richard M. Gula**
  - Research: fundamental moral theology; medical ethics
- **William O’Neill, S.J**
  - Research: issues in human rights, the rhetoric of human rights; ethics of social reconciliation; Christian social ethics; international and domestic justice; theological inculturation of ethics, refugee and immigration policy
- **Carol S. Robb**
  - Research: environmental ethics, particularly climate change and agriculture; feminist ethics; theories of justice and economic ethics; methods in ethics
Integrative Studies in Ethics and Theology (ISET)
The program in Integrative Studies in Ethics and Theology seeks to respond to the challenge of these times by bringing together into one program the bodies of scholarship that have grown up around the central ethical and theological questions of the Christian experience of God. Indeed, the separation of systematic theology, ethics, and spirituality is a relatively recent development in the history of Christian thought, and while the separation has been advantageous to each area, it has also frequently meant the obscuring—and even loss—of the broader perspectives in which certain themes and problems must be situated today. Moreover, since the fields of theology and ethics share many common historical figures and texts (e.g., Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther) as well as methodological concerns (the use of scripture, the relationship to reason and experience), integrating the two fields at the outset of doctoral students’ careers makes eminent sense, enabling students to understand better the ways that the two fields both connect and differ. To this end, all students in the program participate during their first year in a common two-semester course devoted to a close reading of a set of historic and modern texts that have been formative for Christian theological and moral reflection. In the second-year seminar, students focus on a common theme. Common reading lists and comprehensive examinations provide further opportunities for integration and dialogue.

Application at a glance
- January 15: Application Deadline

Faculty
- William C. French
  - Research: environmental ethics and creation-oriented theology; war and peace studies, environmental sustainability, global security, and justice
- Tisha Rajendra
  - Research: Recently, current work uses Catholic social thought and liberation theology to address questions of migration, human rights, and state sovereignty under conditions of globalization
  - Also interested in ethics of food and food systems, international relations and political philosophy
- Susan Ross, Chair of the Department of Theology
  - Recent Publication: For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Sacramentality and Justice (Paulist, 2006)
  - Research: feminist theology and ethics, theological anthropology
- Michael Schuck, Associate Professor; Director of the Joan and Bill Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage
  - Research: History and Principles of Roman Catholic Social Thought; Social Theory and Religious Ethics; Political Philosophy and Christian Ethics; Faith, Human Development, and the Social-Moral Self
- **Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar**
  - Research: feminist ethics; sexual ethics; social justice and the family
  - Current Work: focuses on human dependency and dependent care relations as a lens through which to understand Christian love, and as a site of systematic injustice along lines of gender, race, class, nationality and citizenship status

- **Aana Marie Vigen**
  - Research: Medical ethics; feminist ethics; Protestant ethics; ethnographic methods
  - Current Work: co-authoring (with Christian Scharen) a volume on *Ethnography as Christian Theology and Ethics* to be published by Continuum in 2011. She is also contributing a chapter, “Loving God and the Neighbor: Protestant Insights for Prevention and Treatment,” to an interdisciplinary volume to be published by Oxford in 2011. She has begun preliminary research on prenatal genetic screening and Christian ethics and plans to incorporate ethnographic interviews into this research.
Moral Theology/Christian Ethics
Moral theology and Christian ethics is that extended branch of theological inquiry that studies in a systematic way the practical implications of God's revelatory intervention in Jesus Christ. It is concerned with the kind of people we ought to be and the kinds of actions we ought to perform or avoid. In pursuing its task, moral theology must draw upon every available source of understanding: scripture, tradition, relevant human sciences (such as psychology, sociology, economics), and human reason. Therefore, any adequate study of moral theology, in elaborating "the nobility of the Christian vocation of the faithful and their obligation to bring forth fruit in charity for the life of the world" (Vatican II, Decree on Priestly Formation, 16), must be not only "thoroughly nourished by scriptural teaching," but also generally interdisciplinary. Furthermore, it will take ecumenism seriously because it is clear that what the Spirit works in the hearts of others "can contribute to our own edification" (Vatican II, Decree on Ecumenism, 4).

At Notre Dame, the doctoral program in moral theology responds to these broad mandates in several ways. It studies a number of subdisciplines, including social, medical, and foundational ethics. The program encourages interaction with philosophical ethics. While the program concentrates on the Roman Catholic tradition, it engages and is open to a selection of traditions. It demands course work outside of the field of moral theology (e.g., systematic theology, scripture).

Application at a glance
- January 2: Application Deadline
- Minimum GRE score: 4.5 on the analytical section and 1200 cumulative; nevertheless, the verbal section more important
- Writing Sample: strongly recommended but not required.
  - writing samples should be between fifteen and twenty pages in length
    - one may submit a portion of a longer essay
    - samples longer than twenty pages will not be read
  - an applicant should choose a writing sample that highlights his or her strengths for the area to which he or she is applying in addition to clear writing and ability to frame a theological question
    - one might submit a sample that shows facility with primary text research languages

Faculty
- **David Clairmont**, Assistant Professor of Theology
  - Research: comparative study of religious ethics, predominantly the moral thought of Roman Catholicism and Theravada Buddhism
  - Interested in questions of moral formation, moral weakness, and the importance of inter-religious dialogue for the future of Catholic moral theology
- **Jennifer Herdt**, Associate Professor of Theology
  - Research: classical and contemporary virtue ethics, history of moral thought since the 17th century, and contemporary Protestant social ethics and political theology
- **Cathleen Kaveny**, John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law and Professor of Theology
  - Research: the function of religious discourse in the public square, the role of law as a moral teacher in a pluralistic society, and the poverty of the commodified notion of time dominating legal practice and the contemporary business world
  - Focused on questions in health care ethics, such as assisted suicide, cloning, and managed care
  - Current Projects: book on complicity with evil and another on the relationship between justice and mercy
- **Gerald McKenny**, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Theology
  - Research: the ethics of biotechnology and theological ethics
- **Paulinus Odozor**, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics
- **Margaret Pfeil**, Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Theology
  - Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C., Moral Theology/Christian Ethics
  - Research: Christian ministry, higher education in Catholicism, medical ethics, moral theology and its pastoral applications; medical ethics, and sexuality
- **Jean Porter**, John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology
  - Research: Christian moral thought (historically and scholastically) and foundational moral theology
- **Maura Ryan**, Fellow of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; Coordinator of the MT Area, John Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C.; Associate Professor of Christian Ethics
  - Research: bioethics and health policy, feminist ethics, and fundamental moral theology
- **Todd D. Whitmore**, Associate Professor of Theology
  - Director of the Program in the Catholic Social Tradition
PhD Program
The Ph.D. program of Princeton Theological Seminary forms scholars, servants, and leaders of the church and the academy through constructive, critical engagement with the Christian tradition in its complexity and diversity, and where appropriate, in conversation with other religious and intellectual traditions in their multiplicity and variety. (Concentrations in Religion and Society and Theology (Ethics).

Application at a glance
- Due Date- December 15
- Application fee- $70
- GRE
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
http://www.princeton.edu/religion/

PhD in Religion, Ethics, and Politics
This field of concentration attends to relations among religious, ethical, and political aspects of culture and to the moral significance of religious traditions. Students are expected to develop specific areas of historical knowledge while also becoming familiar with recent work in theology, philosophy, comparative ethics, politics, and social theory.

Application at a Glance
• Due date- December 31
• Application fee- $90
• GRE required
• 20-25 page writing sample

Faculty
• Jeffrey Stout- Professor of Religion; Chair, Committee for Film Studies
  o Research interests: theories of religion, religious and philosophical ethics, philosophy of religion, social criticism, political thought, modern theology, and film
  o Books: The Flight from Authority; Ethics after Babel; Democracy and Tradition; Blessed Are the Organized: Grassroots Democracy in America
• Leora Batnitzky- Professor of Religion; Chair, Department of Religion
  o Research areas: philosophy of religion, modern Jewish thought, hermeneutics, and contemporary legal and political theory
• Eddie Glaude- William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies; Chair, Center for African American Studies
  o Research interests: American pragmatism (specifically the work of John Dewey), African American religious history and its place in American public life
  o Books: Exodus! Religion, Race, and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America, University of Chicago Press; Editor of Is it Nation Time? Contemporary Essays on Black Power and Black Nationalism, University of Chicago Press; In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America
• Eric Gregory- Professor of Religion
  o Research interests: religious and philosophical ethics, theology, political theory, law and religion, and the role of religion in public life
Religious Ethics
For more information regarding the doctoral program offered at Southern Methodist University, please click on the following link:

http://www.smu.edu/~/media/Site/Dedman/Departments/ReligiousStudies/01GPRS/GPRS_Flyer.ashx

Application at a glance
• Application Deadline: January 15
• GPA: 3.0 or better
• GRE score(s): 1200 or better (verbal + quantitative)

Faculty
• Charles E. Curran, Scurlock Professor of Human Values.
  o Research: Catholic moral theology, church in society, and social ethics
• Robin W. Lovin, Maguire Univ. Prof. of Ethics.
  o Research: Protestant theological studies, religious and political thought, and social ethics
• Rebekah Miles, Associate Professor of Ethics
  o Research: ethics, feminist ethics, and pastoral care
• Theodore Walker Jr., Associate Professor of Ethics and Society
  o Research: black theology, process metaphysics, and theological social ethics
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): Theology with a concentration in Ethics

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program at Union Theological Seminary is offered for students who want to primarily study aspects of the Christian tradition and Christian though with a view toward teaching in colleges, universities, and seminaries, or holding positions of leadership within churches or social service and social justice agencies. The doctoral program at Union includes work for the intermediate degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil), which is also earned at Union.

The ideal Union Theological Seminary applicant must be graduates of accredited colleges. Normally, the ideal applicant will have concentrated their undergraduate studies in some area of the liberal arts, but in any case will have established an outstanding academic record. In addition to general requirements for admission, applicants will have completed either a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts with distinction from an accredited seminary, or will have completed at least two years of distinguished graduate studies in religion and obtained a very thorough knowledge of biblical, theological, and historical subjects.

At Union, there are three choices of consortia:

- **The Bible Consortium**: this consortium contains degrees in Old and New Testaments involving collaboration primarily between faculties in the Bible disciplines.
- **The Theology Consortium**: this consortium involves collaboration primarily between faculty in Theology, Ethics, and Church History.
- **The Practical Theology Consortium**: this specialized consortium shall have a focus in one of the disciplines of the consortium—Preaching, Psychiatry and Religion, Religion and Education, Religion and Society, or Worship—and shall involve collaboration with some members of either the Bible or Theology consortia or with another of the Practical Theology disciplines (i.e., a student might major in Psychiatry and Religion in collaboration with Old Testament, or major in Preaching in collaboration with Worship). Students should contact faculty in specific disciplines of interest, as indicated.

**Application at a glance**

- Application Deadline: January 6
- Average GRE score

**Faculty**

- **Gary Dorrien**, Reinhold Neibuhr Professor of Social Ethics
  - written numerous books on economic democracy, social ethical theory, theories of myth and interpretation, Barthian neo-orthodoxy, and neoconservative politics.
    - *The Making of American Theology*—definitive work in the field
    - *Social Ethics in the Making* (2009)
  - focuses on ethics for LGBTQ persons
• **Kelby Harrison**, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Social Ethics
  o PhD, Northwestern University (2010)
• **Christopher L. Morse**, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor of Theology and Ethics
  o focus in systematic theology with particular emphasis on developing the practice of dogmatics and theological ethics as a “testing of the spirits” in regards to formative Christian dogmatic traditions and to the contemporary significance and assessment of church doctrines.

**Financial Aid and Scholarships**
For more information regarding financial aid and grants and scholarships offered at Union, please click the following link: [http://www.utsnyc.edu/page.aspx?pid=430](http://www.utsnyc.edu/page.aspx?pid=430).
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program: Constructive Studies in Religion, Religious Ethics
For more information regarding the doctoral program at the University of Chicago, please click the following links:

http://divinity.uchicago.edu/academics/constructive-studies-religion.shtml#reth
http://divinity.uchicago.edu/academics/areas/PhD%20Religious%20Ethics.pdf

Application at a glance
• Application Deadline: December 15

Faculty
• Jean B. Elshtain (PhD, Brandeis University)
  o Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics
  o Department of Political Science
  o Committee on International Relations
• Martha C. Nussbaum (MA, PhD, Harvard University)
  o Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics
  o Law School and Department of Philosophy
  o Associate Faculty, Department of Classics and Political Science
  o Member, Committee on Southern Asian Studies
  o Board Member, Human Rights Program
  o Coordinator, Center for Comparative Constitutionalism
• William Schewelker (MDiv, Duke University; PhD, University of Chicago)
  o Director, Martin Marty Center
  o Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics
• Daniel P. Sulmasy (MD, Cornell University; PhD, Georgetown University)
  o Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medicine and Ethics, Departments of Medicine and the Divinity School
  o Associate Director, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, Department of Medicine
• Stephen C. Meredith (MD, Washington University; PhD, University of Chicago)
  o Professor, Departments of Pathology, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology
PhD in Theology
Our doctoral program offers a distinctive research focus on the various practices and praxis of Catholicism in the United States. The University of Dayton program is unique. Theology is at the center, but you must examine other disciplines and practices to build a core of knowledge and understanding. You'll have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of theological and religious issues and practices within the field of the American Catholic experience, and you'll develop the ability to conduct theological research in interaction with the humanities and social sciences. The doctoral program serves students preparing to teach in colleges and universities as well as those intending to work in research and policy positions in church administration.

Application at a glance
- transcripts
- GRE required
- 3 letters of recommendation
- personal statement
- academic sample
PhD in Religion and Social Change
The concentration in Religion and Social Change (RSC) is an interdisciplinary research program focusing on the relation of religions and societies. Religion functions sometimes to conserve values in the midst of change; sometimes to inhibit urgently needed change, and sometimes to empower and motivate qualitative change. The concentration provides a scholarly context for pursuing descriptive, analytic and constructive examination of these complex interrelationships between religions and societies. A commitment to explore the ways religious thought may contribute to responsible engagement with contemporary societal and global challenges is a major dimension of this concentration. A critical aspect of this exploration is the systemic whole of globalization within which particular contexts and problems are located.

Academic disciplines especially germane to this interdisciplinary concentration are social sciences (e.g. sociology, anthropology, international studies); religious, intellectual and cultural histories; and critical reflection (ethics, philosophy, theology, cultural theory). An assumption of this program is that the interrelationships of religions and societies are most fruitfully understood through a combination of descriptive, historical and critical theories and methods.

Within this concentration, special resources are available in:
Religion, Politics and Social Change in varied societal contexts (e.g. Europe, First Nation Peoples, Middle East, North America, South Asia, Southern Africa)
Religious and Cultural Diversity in varied societal contexts (see above)
Postcolonial Thought and Critiques of Globalization
Critical Theory Pertaining to Systemic Analysis
American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions
Human Rights
Latina/o Religion and Religion on the Border

PhD in Theology, Philosophy, and Cultural Theory
The Theology, Philosophy, and Cultural Theory (TPCT) concentration comprises four subfields:
• Theology
• Philosophy
• Comparative Studies
• Cultural Theory
Students graduating from this concentration will have developed competency to teach at least one undergraduate course in each of the four subfields. They will also be prepared to do research, publish, and teach in their subfield of specialization.
Admission into this concentration presupposes a master's degree with an appropriate background for study in the subfields.

For the purposes of this concentration, the subfields may be characterized as follows:
• Theology modern and contemporary theology and Western religious thought
• Philosophy Western philosophies that have had a major impact on developments in theology and the study of religion
• Comparative Studies theories of cross cultural comparison and their application to the study of non Western religion and philosophy
• Cultural Theory modern theories and critiques of religion and culture

Students concentrate in, and demonstrate extensive knowledge of, one of the four subfields, which will be regarded as the student's special field.

**Application at a glance**
- Due date: January 1
- transcripts
- GRE
- 3 letters of recommendation
- statement of purpose (3-5 pages)
- research paper (10-20 pages)
- $60 application fee

**Faculty**
As a joint program of DU and Iliff, PhD students use resources and study with faculty from both, making the list of faculty quite extensive. See [http://www.du.edu/duilffjoint/Faculty.html](http://www.du.edu/duilffjoint/Faculty.html) for more details about faculty members.
Theology, Ethics, and Culture
Theology, Ethics, and Culture at the University of Virginia includes studies of the theological, philosophical, ethical, and cultural traditions that continue to inform religious thought and practice. The area is committed to understanding religious reflection and expression historically, critically, and constructively.
Faculty in Religious Studies enjoys a variety of interests that contribute to three fields of concentration in Theology, Ethics, and Culture: theological and philosophical studies, religion and culture, and religious ethics. In course work, comprehensive examinations, research, and dissertation compilation, students concentrate in one of these fields, while exploring other fields in TEC and throughout the department and university. Each field of concentration within TEC periodically describes broad topics that suggest the foci of Theology, Ethics, and Culture courses and comprehensive exams. (These general topics are always subject to revision by the faculty.)

Three Focus Areas
1. Religious, Theological, and Philosophical Studies
   a. Ancient to Medieval
   b. Medieval Through Modern
   c. Modern Through Contemporary
   d. Topics and Thinkers
2. Religious Ethics
   a. Christian, Jewish, and Islamic ethics (historical and contemporary)
   b. Applied Ethics (e.g., biomedical or political)
   c. Philosophical Ethics
3. Religion and Culture
   a. Cultural History and Theology of Culture
   b. Literature, Criticism, Philosophical and Theological Aesthetics
   c. Interpretation Theory
   d. Religion and the Social Sciences
   e. Religion and Material Culture
   f. Literary Interpretation and Adaptation of Scripture

Whichever field(s) students may choose to concentrate in, they are expected to take courses in other fields and departments.

Application at a glance
- December 3: Application Deadline
- average GRE score: verbal score between 650-705
- Institutional Code: 5820
- Departmental Code: 2904
• GPA: 3.7 (average)
• three (3) letters of recommendation and a statement of purpose
• NOTE: the quickest way to be rejected for this program is to propose a course of study that is outside the research specialization of the faculty

Faculty
• James Childress, John Allen Hollingsworth Professor of Ethics (jfc7c@virginia.edu)
  o Current Research
    ▪ biomedical ethics, with particular attention to theory and method; bioethics and religion, and public bioethics
    ▪ just-war theory and pacifism
  o Interests: biomedical ethics, methods in ethics, religious ethics, and social and political ethics
• Jennifer Geddes
• Matthew Hedstrom
• Charles Marsh
• Charles Mathewes
PhD in Ethics and Society
This program prepares students to do research and teach courses in theological education and religious studies. The program focuses on the social and moral significance of religion in modern society. Students are expected to complete and integrate course work in the academic study of religion, philosophical, theological, and social ethics, and social theory and analysis. Students in Ethics are also expected to have a minor field of study. This requirement may be satisfied in one of the other areas of study in the Graduate Department of Religion (i.e., Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Historical Studies, History and Critical Theories of Religion, Homiletics and Liturgics, Religion and Personality, or Theological Studies). Students may also take a minor in a variety of cognate disciplines within the human studies and social sciences (i.e., philosophy, classics, political theory, comparative literature, historical studies, medical humanities, anthropology, sociology, political science, et al.).

Faculty
• **Victor Anderson**- Oberlin Alumni Professor of Christian Ethics; Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies and Religious Studies
  o Research interests: seeks to help people find meaning, significance, and hope in their experience of the world
• **Sandra Barnes**- Professor of Sociology of Religion; Professor of Human and Organizational Development
  o Research interests: race, class, and gender dynamics, the relationship between structural constraints and individual agency, and how these dynamics influence the experiences of residents in poor urban spaces; role of religion as a change agent among the poor.
• **Stacey Floyd-Thomas**- Associate Professor of Ethics and Society
  o Research interests: intersection of ethics, feminist/womanist studies, Black Church studies, critical pedagogy, critical race theory, and postcolonial studies with an overall approach to the study of Christian social ethics that engages broad questions of moral agency, cultural memory, ethical responsibility and social justice
• **Graham Reside**- Executive Director, Cal Turner Program in Moral Leadership for the Professions; Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Divinity School
• Melissa Snarr- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Associate Professor of Ethics and Society
  o Research interests: intersection of religion, social change, and political ethics
  o Books: All You That Labor: Religion and Ethics in the Living Wage Movement (NYU 2011), Social Selves and Political Reforms (Continuum, 2007)
**PhD in Religious Ethics**

The doctoral program in Religious Ethics at Yale has a longstanding and distinguished tradition of training students with equal rigor and commitment in theological ethics, philosophical ethics, and social ethics. Situated within the vibrant conversation that constitutes the contemporary discipline of religious studies, the program draws on the expertise of members of the Graduate Faculty in Religious Studies and members of the faculty of Yale Divinity School. Each student admitted into the program is given five full years of funding to support their course of study. Graduates of the program go on to positions at major research universities, liberal arts colleges, and both denominational and non-denominational seminaries; recent graduates of Yale’s Religious Ethics doctoral program are now faculty members at Duke Divinity School, Fordham University, Princeton University, the University of Chester (UK), the University of Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, Villanova University, and Yale Divinity School, among others.

These guidelines are intended to provide information about the program in Religious Ethics within the Department of Religious Studies: to identify norms and expectations that serve as points of reference from which a program of study can be developed, and also to explain the requirements for the degree in this particular field and the procedures for meeting them. All students must work with the faculty, the Assistant Director of Graduate Studies for Ethics, and the Director of Graduate Studies, to define their own particular program. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Ethics faculty early in their academic program to define their needs and to design a course of study that will prepare them for their qualifying examinations and for subsequent work on the dissertation.

**Application at a glance**

- transcript
- writing sample (20-30 pages)
- personal statement
- GRE

**Faculty**

- **Jennifer Herdt**- Gilbert L Stark Professor of Christian Ethics and Religious Studies
  - Research areas: early-modern and modern moral thought, classical and contemporary virtue ethics, and contemporary Protestant social ethics and political theology