AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
C. P. Haggard Graduate School of Theology
Course Instruction Plan

GTHE-505: Christian Ethics                             Fall 2001
John S. Park, Ph.D.                                     4 Units

I. Course Description.

This course is a study of the Biblical and theological foundations of Christian ethics and an analysis of
the nature of Christian responsibility in the major areas of social concern. Classical and contemporary
theories will be examined with understanding their unique contributions to the field, focused on each
theory’s own Christian ethical source, form, context, as well as principle, and studied strengths and
weaknesses of their arguments to be adapted to contemporary ethical context. At the end of this class,
students should be able to acquire their own moral and ethical sense of judgment in daily Christian life.

II. Required Text.

Wayne G. Boulton ed. with Thomas D. Kennedy, and Allen Verhey, From Christ to the World: Introductory
Readings in Christian Ethics (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).

III Recommended Texts.

“History of Ethics,” “Problems of Ethics,” “Ultimate Moral Principles” from The Encyclopedia of Philosophy,
vol. Three.

IV. Course Requirements. Students are required to:

1) complete all required reading assignments prior to each class and actively participate in class
discussion. (10%)

2) present weekly personal ethical reflection. (2X10= 20%)

3) take a mid-term exam. (30%)

4) write an academic semester paper of 10-12 pages (typed and double-spaced) long. A one-page
statement containing the topic, issues, problems of the paper should be submitted no later than November 8
and approved by the instructor. Topics should be sufficiently focused so as to permit helpful analysis and
a clearly developed argument. Papers should define an important ethical issue
in the Christian church, show careful reading of relevant sources, state and give reasons for your own present position on the issue in light of your study, and indicate the wide significance of the discussion for church and ministry today. The paper is due by the last day of class of the semester. There will be no final examination. (40%)

* Plagiarism
Anyone who plagiarizes (i.e., presents as one’s own work something which has been taken from someone else) will receive an automatic zero on that piece of work and a warning. A second like offence will result in an “F” for the final course grade.

* Students With Disabilities:
Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements. (The LEC does not provide assessment for students who have a suspected learning disability. Students are required to obtain this information from an outside source such as a license psychologist or qualified educational therapist.)

V. Course Schedule
1: Introduction: Ethical Options and Ethical Issues

2: Scripture and Christian Ethics; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
   Park 1-46, 67-114; Verhey, #2; Gustafson #3, Augustine #4, Mouv #6, Hauerwas #7

3: Tradition, Philosophy and Christian Ethics; Romans 1:18-25; 2:14-16; Colossians 2:8-15
   Park 47-66; Frankena 12-60; Stout #11, Yoder #16, Aristotle #18

4: Forms of Christian Ethics; Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:1-11, 17-48; Galatians 2:15-21
   Park 125-152; Frankena 61-94; Luther #32, Niebuhr #33, Fletcher #34

5: Forms of Christian Ethics; Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:1-11, 17-48; Galatians 2:15-21
   Frankena 61-94; Luther #32, Niebuhr #33, Fletcher #34

6: Norms of Christian Ethics; Micah 6:6-8; Luke 10:25-37; 1 Corinthians 13
   Augustine #40, Niebuhr #42, Tillich #43

7: Norms of Christian Ethics; Micah 6:6-8; Luke 10:25-37; 1 Corinthians 13
   Augustine #40, Niebuhr #42, Tillich #43

8: Contexts of Christian Ethics; 1 John 2:15-17; 4:1-7; Romans 13:1-7
   Colliander #50, Murray #53, Rasmussen #55

9: MID-TERM EXAM

10: Marriage and Family: 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; 7:25-38; Eph. 5:21-33
    Guroian # 57, Smedes # 60, Nelson # 61; Case study: Premarital Sex

11: Medical Ethics (Abortion, Euthanasia, Biomedical Issues): 2 Chr. 16:12; Luke 7:19-23
    Cahill # 65, Hauerwas # 66, Meilaender # 69; Case study: The Death Machine

12: Political Ethics; Ps. 44:1-26; Mt. 5:38-48
    Niebuhr #72, Niebuhr #73, King #75, Kennedy # 76; Case study: Nonviolence with a Rapeist?

13: Economic Ethics; Amos 5:11-24; Matthew 19:16-30; 25:31-46
    Clement #79, Rauschenbusch #81, Boff #84, Stackhouse and McCann #85; Case study: Can Capitalism be saved?

14: Environmental Ethics: Gen. 1:26-31; Hosea 4:1-3; Rom. 8:18-24a
    McFague # 90, May #91, Berry # 92; Case study: The Spotted Owl

15: Post-Modernism, Technology, and Ethics; FINAL PAPER DUE! NO FINAL EXAM!