

**SYLLABUS**  
**715: ETHICS: THEORY AND PRACTICE (Distance Learning) Core Course**  
**FACULTY: Jim Gaither ThD.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Therapists, Intuitive Counselors, and Energy and Spiritual Healers face a host of ethical and legal issues which are not experienced in most other professions. Familiarity with professional standards and a code of ethics is crucial to safe, effective and secure practice of therapeutic work. This course examines the major philosophical theories an ethics, which can help practitioners make constructive decisions through understanding the bases of our ideas of right and wrong. Students will become familiar with a model code of ethics and explore a wide range of ethical and legal issues they could encounter in health research, teaching and healing practice. The written assignments will focus on developing ethical decision making in relation to both theory and professional practice.

**FACULTY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**

**Jim Gaither** is President of Holos, an adjunct professor at HU, a member of the HU Academic Board and an adjunct professor for Unity Institute. Jim has a Master's Degree in philosophy from the University of Kansas and a ThD from Holos. He is "Pastor Emeritus" of the Unity Center of Practical Christianity in New York City, where he was minister for seven and half years and the successor to Eric Butterworth. Jim is well known to Unity students around the world for his 20 years service as instructor of ministerial and licensed teacher students at Unity School and for over 30 years of writing for *Unity Magazine*. He is author of *The Essential Charles Fillmore* published by Unity House. He was co-host of the Unity online radio program "*Biblical Power for Your Life*" from 2007-2010. He was recipient of the 2003 "Charles Fillmore Award for Visionary Leadership" from Unity Worldwide Ministries.

**FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Students will:**

Learn the fundamental ideas and concepts of major ethical theories and how those ideas and concepts can be applied to specific ethical issues. The student will also learn about important elements of professional code of ethics for health practitioners and how those elements apply in professional practice. Students will demonstrate their understanding of ethical codes to significant cases that can arise in practice.

**Required Materials and Texts:**

Valasquez, Manuel and Cynthia Rostankowski, editors, *Ethics, Theory and Practice* (1985), Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ ISBN 0-13-290487-X (this book is also available in e-book form).

Feinstein, David and Donna Eden, *Ethics Handbook for Energy Healing Practitioners: A Guide for the Professional Practice of Energy Medicine and Energy Psychology* (2011), Energy Psychology Press, Fulton, CA ISBN 978-1-60415-083-4.

### **Recommended Supplemental Text:**

Hover-Kramer, Dorothea, *Creating Healing Relationships* (2011), Energy Psychology Press, Santa Rosa, CA ISBN 978-1-60415-080-3.

## **HOLOS FACULTY-STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

Students and instructor communicate frequently via e-mail and phone Conference Calls, creating a collegial forum for sharing ideas among class participants. Telephone Conference Calls and calls with instructors are at the student's expense. Faculty members should inform students of any times that they are not available for e-mail or phone communication. Students should inform instructors if they will not be available for scheduled phone Conference Calls. Students should allow three days for a response after e-mailing an instructor. If you have not received a response after three days, re-send the e-mail, call the instructor and leave a voice message. If you have still not received a response after two more days, forward your e-mail communications with the instructor to the Dean. Further action will be determined by the Dean.

### **ASSIGNMENT FORMATS**

- All written assignments must be **Microsoft Word** documents sent by e-mail as attached files.
- All papers should be **double-spaced**.
- **FONT:** Times or Times New Roman.
- **E-MAIL SUBJECT LINE:** Always include the course number 715, Underscore, your last name followed by your Initial, Underscore, and the Assignment number in the subject line of your E-mail and on the title page of your assigned papers.
- **END NOTES:** All referenced material must be cited using endnotes. Include the Author's name, the publication name, the publisher, the date of publication, and the page number.
- **FILE NAME: When you "save" your document, you MUST use the same format to name your Word file, or your file will be returned so that you can add the proper file name and format:**  
The document you attach to your e-mail should be in the following format:

**715\_SmithJ\_#1.doc. (Course #, Last Name, First Initial, Assignment#.doc)** Use Times, Times New Roman, or Helvetica fonts, 12 pt. and cite all referenced material using *Chicago Manual of Style* endnotes.

## **DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**Assignment dates are generic and are calculated from the beginning of the semester:**

Fall semester classes begin the second Monday of September and run for 20 weeks.

Spring semesters classes begin the second Monday of March and run for 20 weeks.

LINK TO SEMESTER DATES:

[http://www.holosuniversity.org/about/semester\\_dates\\_through\\_2015/](http://www.holosuniversity.org/about/semester_dates_through_2015/)

**Conference Calls are held on the Monday immediately following the Friday due date of each paper, except for the final Conference Call which is on the last Thursday of classes.**

The 90- minute calls are scheduled initially for 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Central Time. They can be held up to two hours earlier or up to two hours later than scheduled to accommodate preferences of those enrolled in a given semester. Please indicate during the first week of classes if the 3:30 start times are a problem for you and, if they are, indicate the times you are available on Monday. Under unusual conditions the Conference Call could be moved to another day.

Participants will be e-mailed the number to call and the Internet address to connect with concurrently. We may be using GoToMeeting.com software. The Internet will be used only for video; all audio signals must be through a regular telephone connection. You may want to check it out on the Internet.

## **ASSIGNMENT #1**

**Due Date: Friday of week 3**

**Percentage of Grade: 7%**

**Learning Outcomes of Assignment:**

- Learn the basic nature of ethics
- Learn the about “Natural Law Ethics”

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Velasquez & Rostankowski text, chapters 1 & 2.

**Assignment Description:**

Write a 5 page paper on the nature of ethics and natural law ethics in response to the essays in the first reading assignment and submit before our first phone Conference Call. Be prepared to discuss and explain your position in our first phone Conference Call. Use our text as a reference.

## **PHONE CONFERENCE CALL #1**

**Time:** Monday immediately following the Friday assignment at 3 – 4:30 pm Central Time.

**Percentage of Grade: 3%**

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Fully review and understand the syllabus

Description of Conference Call: Review and discuss syllabus and process of the class

**Learning Outcomes of Conference Call:**

- Understand the syllabus
- Meet fellow students
- Learn the style of the instructor
- Understand the nature of ethics

## **ASSIGNMENT #2**

**Due Date: Friday of week 6**

**Percentage of Grade: 15%**

**Learning Outcomes of Assignment:**

- Identify the basic ideas in the three ethical theories described in the text
- Critique the theories – positive and negative
- Compare the theories, including the “natural law theory” covered in assignment #1
- Identify which theory you believe most accurately describes the basis of ethical decision making

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Velasquez & Rostankowski text, chapters 3-5.

**Assignment Description:** Write a 10 page paper describing, critiquing and comparing the three ethical theories covered in the reading assignment. Also compare the "natural law theory" covered in assignment #1 to the three theories from chapters 3-5. Identify which ethical theory seems to you to most accurately describe the basis of ethical judgments and briefly explain why that theory seems best to you. If you prefer, you may describe some combination of ideas from more than one theory if none of the theories by themselves appeal to you.

### **PHONE CONFERENCE CALL #2**

**Time:** Monday immediately following the Friday assignment at 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Central Time

**Percentage of Grade: 3%**

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** First two assignments

**Description of Conference Call:** Review and discuss first two assignments; integrate all papers and learnings for a more comprehensive overview.

### **Learning Outcomes of Conference Call:**

- Understand ethical theory better
- Understand the papers of fellow students better
- Develop further insights into ethical theory

## **ASSIGNMENT #3**

**Due Date: Friday of week 9**

**Percentage of Grade: 15%**

**Learning Outcomes of Assignment:**

- Apply your ethical theory, as identified in assignment #2, to a contemporary moral issue
- Critique chosen essays on moral issues – positive and negative

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Velasquez & Rostankowski text, one of the chapters in *part two*. Choose an issue that is important to you from chapters 6-15 and read the essays in that chapter.

### **Assignment Description:**

Describe the moral issue you've chosen to discuss. Summarize the positions and arguments taken in the essays in the text on that issue. Compare and critique the arguments. Describe and make case for your own position, using the ethical theory you identified as best in your paper for assignment #2. You may draw upon the essays in the text to make your case.

### **PHONE CONFERENCE CALL #3**

**Time:** Monday immediately following the Friday assignment at 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Central Time

**Percentage of Grade: 3%**

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** The Velasquez & Rostankowski text and first two assignments

**Description of Conference Call:** Review and discuss assignment #3; integrate all papers and learnings for a more comprehensive overview.

**Learning Outcomes of Conference Call:**

- Understand your ethical theory better
- Understand the papers of fellow students better
- Develop further insights into the ethics

#### **ASSIGNMENT #4**

**Due Date:** Friday of week 12

**Percentage of Grade:** 15%

**Learning Outcomes of Assignment:**

- Learn basic types of ethical dilemmas involved in healing practice
- Understand how ethical theory applies to dilemmas of healing practice

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Feinstein-Eden text (Introduction, Ch. 1-3 up to “case vignette 32, p. 94) and papers from previous assignments

**Assignment Description:** Summarize and discuss the importance of the “Ethical Dilemmas” described in Chapter 1 of Feinstein-Eden text. Discuss one of the case vignettes in Chapter 3 of the text, in light of your ethical theory and assigned readings.

#### **PHONE CONFERENCE CALL #4**

**Due Date:** Monday immediately following the Friday assignment from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Central Time

**Percentage of Grade:** 3%

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Paper #4

**Description of Conference Call:** Review and discuss assignment #4; integrate all papers and learnings for a more comprehensive overview.

**Learning Outcomes of Conference Call:**

- Understand your ethical theory better
- Understand ethical dilemmas
- Understand the papers of fellow students

#### **ASSIGNMENT #5**

**Due Date:** Friday of week 15

**Percentage of Grade:** 15%

**Learning Outcomes of Assignment:**

- Learn more about possible dilemmas of healing practice
- Learn more about applying ethical theory to ethics of practice

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Feinstein-Eden text (Ch. 3 from “case vignette 32 through Ch. 5) and papers from previous assignments

**Assignment Description:** Write a 10 page paper summarizing 3 of the case vignettes in the assigned readings and discuss what you would do in each case, based upon the discussions in Feinstein-Eden text and your ethical theory.

### **PHONE CONFERENCE CALL #5**

**Time:** Monday immediately following the Friday assignment from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Central Time

**Percentage of Grade:** 3%

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Paper #5

**Description of Conference Call:** Review and discuss assignment #5; integrate all papers and learnings for a more comprehensive overview.

#### **Learning Outcomes of Conference Call:**

- Understand more about your ethical theory and ethical dilemmas
- Understand the papers of fellow students better

### **ASSIGNMENT #6**

**Due Date:** Friday of week 20

**Percentage of Grade:** 15%

**Learning Outcomes of Assignment:**

- Understand more about your ethical theory, the healer’s code of ethics and ethical dilemmas
- Understand better how to apply your ethical theory and the code of ethics to your practice

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Feinstein-Eden text and papers from previous assignments

**Assignment Description:** Write a 10 page paper applying your ethical theory to 3 more cases from the text and summarize your conclusions about ethical theory and how to apply it in your professional practice.

### **PHONE CONFERENCE CALL #6**

**Time:** Friday of week 20 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Central Time

**Percentage of Grade:** 3%

**Required Texts and/or Materials:** Paper #6

**Description of Conference Call:** Review and discuss assignment #6; integrate all papers and learnings for a more comprehensive overview.

#### **Learning Outcomes of Conference Call:**

- Understand more about your ethical theory, the healer’s code of ethics and ethical dilemmas
- Understand the papers of fellow students better