THEO 204 - Introduction to Christian Ethics
Section EC
Fall 2026

This syllabus is subject to change and any changes will be posted in the Announcements section of your eConcordia portal.

Disclaimer: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

About the Course

Instructor:

The instructor for this course is Professor Peter Monette. If you have any questions about the course please contact Dr. Monette via the email below. Please do not use the Chat function on the course website to communicate with the professor.

Contact information: peter.monette@concordia.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Super Group A - Adam Pywowarczuk Email**:** adam.pywowarczuk@concordia.ca
Super Group B - Randa El Chami Email: randa.elchami@concordia.ca
Super Group C - Mohammadmahdi Morvarid Email: mohammadmahdi.morvarid@concordia.ca
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Questions about the course content and other general inquires regarding the course can be e-mailed to your TA. Please allow for a 48-hour response time during the week (Monday-Friday). Teaching Assistants are not obligated to check their messages over the 48-hour weekend period and are not available on statutory or university holidays.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the field of ethics in the context of Christian faith. Christian ethics is presented as an active quest towards understanding and guiding Christian moral living. The terms *ethics* and *morality* are used interchangeably in the course.

Part I presents a brief historical background to Christian ethics. We consider the major questions that have directed reflection on moral living throughout the history of Christianity.

Part II introduces key insights on moral knowing, moral persons and the social dimension of moral life. We consider what it means to be a moral person, how that capacity facilitates moral knowledge, and why moral knowledge is only relevant in a social context, that is, in living with other people. In addition, we explore the intricate connection between morality and freedom.

Part III discusses human sinfulness, the problem of evil and the response of Christian faith. We consider evil as a human force in history that leads to individual and social decline. Thus, sinfulness or evil is understood as that which leads to the diminishment of human persons or societies. We explore how Christian faith provides us with resources in face of decline.

Part IV focuses specifically on moral development. Human beings are not born morally mature. People grow morally through a sequence of gradual changes. We will explore the meaning of conscience and its role in practical moral decision-making. We will look briefly at various approaches to moral development and how our moral development shapes and informs our understanding of and relationship with the divine.

Course Material:

The material for this course consists of the required online textbook, a few articles, video interviews, and the THEO 204 course website.

The text required for this course is available through the course website and is included in the online textbook fee. The list of assigned readings from your textbook and any additional readings/articles are available in the “Readings” section for each lesson.

Textbook:

The required text for this course is *Living with Other People: An Introduction to Christian Ethics Based on Bernard Lonergan* by Kenneth R. Melchin (1998).

Students have the option of accessing print-friendly versions of the lessons as well as the readings through the course website.

Course Website:

The course website can be accessed at www.econcordia.com

Your account will allow you to access the online course material, which includes videos, notes, discussion forums, all graded course components, useful links, readings and many more resources from the course website for the duration of the term, as well as 6 months after the last day of the semester.

Assessments

Graded Assessments

Graded Components	Percentage
Discussion Forum Activities: Participation in 10 Discussion Activities	10%
Quiz 1 (Lessons 1-4) October 6, 2026	20%
Quiz 2 (Lessons 5-8) November 9, 2026	20%
Quiz 3 (Lessons 9-10), November 30, 2026	20%
Final Exam, To be determined by Exams Office	30%

Description of Graded Assessments:

Participation in Online Discussion Forum Activities:

A reflection question or discussion theme is posted at the end of each lesson beginning with Lesson two.

Student responses must make a clear connection between the question/theme and the lesson material. Responses should be between 100 and 200 words. Students must contribute to all 10 discussion forums (Lessons 2-11).

Forum Ethics: Since this is an online course, discussion forums are opportunities for students, TA's and the professor to encounter each other. It is the online activity that comes closest to resembling class discussions. Forums are great opportunities to explore not only what other students think but also what you think as you reflect on the question/theme and articulate your thoughts. We encourage you to participate in the discussion board not only to earn marks but also to contribute to making the course a better experience for all. Forum ethics involves being aware that what you post online affects others in the course. A key goal in ethics is thinking about what we are doing and saying and so we encourage you to think before you write. Also, when you respond to another person's post, read carefully what the other has written, be sure you are confident in your understanding of the intented meaning of the other's post, and respond in a constructive and respectful manner. Respect for one another is paramount in promoting ethics.

Quizzes: Each quiz consists of 30 mulitple choice or true and false questions. Quizzes will be taken on the eConcorida site. All quizzes are "Closed Book"; no material is allowed during the quiz. The quizzes are not proctored. Each quiz will be available from 12:00 AM to 11: 59 PM on the specified date (Please refer to the course agenda). Once you begin a quiz, you will have 35 minutes to complete and submit the quiz. You must complete the quiz in one session. Once the quiz is started the time will countdown to 35 minutes. Be sure that you submit your quiz well in advance of the cut-off time to ensure that the system has sufficient time to register your quiz. If you submit your quiz too close to the cut-off time, the system may not register your quiz. Grades will be posted once all students have completed the quiz. If you have technical issues with a quiz please contact e-Concordia helpdesk.

Final Exam:

The final exam covers all material in all lessons in the course. It will be 60 minutes and consist of 50 multiple choice questions. It will be taken on the e-Concorida site. It is a "Closed-Book" exam. No study material is permitted to be used in completing the exam. The exam is not proctored. The time and date will be set by the university's exam office later in the term.

Grades

In order to view your grades throughout the semester, visit the Grades page on your course website.

Contact the professor via e-mail for clarification if you have any questions concerning your grades.

Your final letter grade for the course will be posted in your Student Hub at the end of the term.

The Department of Theological Studies specifies that As, Bs, and Cs are for "excellent," "good" and satisfactory" work, respectively. In other words:

- Cs are for work that is adequate yet in some way fails to meet all expectations and requirements completely;
- Bs are awarded for work that fully meets all expectations and requirements;
- As are reserved for outstanding work that exceeds expectations and requirements by, e.g., demonstrating outstanding rigour, clarity, or insight.
- Note the following letter grade values in the Department of Theological Studies:

Department of Theological Studies Official Grading Grid

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalency
A+	95.0-100
A	90.0-94.9
A-	86.0-89.9
B+	82.0-85.9
B	78.0-81.9
B-	74.0-77.9
C+	70.0-73.9
C	66.0-69.9
C-	62.0-65.9
D+	58.0-61.9
D	54.0-57.9
D-	50.0-53.9
F	0-49.9

As adopted at the February 17th, 2020 Department Meeting.

Please go to the following link from the Department of Theological Studies website for an explanation about grading distribution:
https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/theology/programs/undergraduate/grading-percentage-equivalencies.html

Policies: Emails

Concordia University has introduced a new email policy to make communication clearer, safer and easier for students, faculty and staff.

Beginning fall of 2026, all students and employees will use only Concordia email accounts to correspond with the university. The goal is simple: to create one trusted, consistent communication channel across the institution.

Newly-admitted students registering for courses in fall 2026 automatically receive a Concordia account after registering for their first course, ensuring they are immediately connected.

While many returning students already use a Concordia account, those who use their personal email addresses are required to use their official Concordia email for all communications with the university as of August 2026.

Policies: Extensions

- All requests for extensions must be granted by the Professor before the quiz deadline or it will not be accepted. In fairness to all students, there will be no exceptions to this policy.
- There will be no extensions for missed Discussion Forum Activities.
- Only medical reasons will be accepted for extensions. Vacations and travel plans (work-related or otherwise) are not considered valid reasons for late submissions of or an inability to complete quizzes and exams. A medical note is required to confirm that you were not able to complete a quiz.
- Only the University administration can defer the final exam.

Policies: Grades Reviews

Please note that all work for this course must be completed before the end of the semester. The regulations concerning Evaluation, the Grading System, Examinations, and Performance Requirements are found in Section 16.3 of the Concordia University Undergraduate Calendar or online at: https://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar/current/sec16/16.html#b16.3

Policies: Artificial Intelligence

- The use of artificial intelligence tools or apps in your writing of any assignment is prohibited.
- Students may not copy or paraphrase from any generative AI applications, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course.
- Representing as one's own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was AI-generated is considered an academic offense.
- Prohibited uses of ChatGPT or other AI tools will be deemed misconduct under Concordia's *Academic Code of Conduct*. Students will be charged under Articles 18 (general cheating/plagiarism/dishonest behavior) and 19a (plagiarism) of the Code. Prohibited use can lead to serious consequences such as a zero for the work, failing grade for the course, or expulsion from the university. See https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/common/docs/policies/official-policies/Academic-Code-Conduct-2015.pdf.

Important Information

eConcordia Information

Online Study Skills

The first thing you should do each time you login is to check the Announcements section for important messages. After reviewing the announcements, go to the module(s)/lesson(s) for the week. All material will be posted within the module(s)/lesson(s) with accompanying reading materials. Students should proceed through the module(s)/lesson(s) in the order they are assigned since each one builds toward the next group of concepts and applications.

Good Study Habits:
An essential element to succeeding in an online course is to have good study habits. Working on your own in a distance education course means that greater responsibility is placed on you as the student for successful completion of the course. A learner who is motivated, self-disciplined, and has good organizational skills will develop the study habits essential for normal progress in the course.

While it is enjoyable to have the flexibility of scheduling your course study time, some individuals never develop a successful study routine. This pattern can place the student in a position that may result in non-completion of deadlines or "cramming" for major assessments.

Try to consider the following items when developing good study habits foran online course:

Set aside a certain day or time to work on your course.
Try to do this early in the week, so you have time to e-mail your TA if you have any questions. Get into the habit of checking the Announcements section and Module section of the course in order to get a mental picture of what you will need to do during the week.

Do not wait until the last day before a deadline, to study and complete assessments.
Remember that even though students are not sitting in a classroom for three hours every week, they will be using the three hours of "classroom" time to read and complete assessments. If students wait until the last minute, they will be stressed when trying to complete the work in an insufficient amount of time.

Odd things happen in cyberspace.
E-mails get lost, servers disconnect temporarily, logins are impossible, etc. Do not wait for the last moment to complete your assignments. Allow time to meet deadlines. Reply and check for replies on every e-mail sent and received. **Make sure to keep a copy of all assignments in Word format before submitting them online.**

Tips for Success

Use the Agenda. The agenda section clearly sets out the various due dates and quiz times that pertain to the course. It is strongly recommended that students visit the agenda section TWICE A WEEK and plan out a strategy for tackling the course requirements. There is a significant amount of work expected from students in this course and planning ahead is crucial.

Plan ahead. This is a university level course and there is a considerable amount of very interesting material.

Proper time management and planning will help students succeed. Note that for the final, it is **strongly suggested** to study all relevant modules as recommended in the timeline of the agenda section of this course. Waiting until the night before the final exam will surely result in a failure of the course due to the amount of material students must know.

Be proactive and do not leave things to the last minute.

Course Evaluation

Approximately one week prior to the end of the term, you will receive an e-mail message asking you to complete a course evaluation. Click on the link in the e-mail and follow the instructions. Please note that all responses are completely anonymous and will be kept confidential. We value your opinion; your feedback regarding your experience with eConcordia is greatly appreciated. You will be communicating with your assigned Teaching Assistants and eConcordia personnel via e-mail.

Navigating the website

This is an online course. So we will not be meeting in a classroom; however, all materials are available to you all the time. Success in an online class depends on your own self-discipline. You have to be self-motivated to read each week's assigned materials and engage your class peers in an online conversation. We will use the Discussion Forum Opportunity to engage in conversations.

Also, review the entire web site to understand its structure and see where different materials and resources are located. Pay special attention to the Assessments page, to clearly understand the tasks you will be required to do.

Important links

Topic	**Link**
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity
Educational Technology Guidelines	Concordia Educational Technology Guidelines for Faculty and Students (the "Guidelines")
Access Centre for Students with Disabilities	ACSD
Concordia Library Citation & Style Guides	How to cite...
Course Communication Tools	Communication
eConcordia Policies	Policies
Final Exams Information	Final Exams
Helpdesk/Support	FAQ
Refunds	Refunds
Technical Requirements	Technical Requirements
Tips for Studying Online	Studying Tips
Tips on how to reach online learning goals (learning modules)	How to Succeed @ eConcordia
How to install and use Zoom	Zoom Information

THEO 204 - Introduction to Christian Ethics
Agenda – Fall 2026

All deadlines indicated are 11:59pm on the due date listed unless otherwise indicated.

Week 1: September 7 – September 13	
	Review the Course Outline and Agenda
	Navigate the Course Website
	Lesson 1: About This Course
	Take the opportunity to introduce yourself on the Discussion Forum and get to know the other students in the class (not graded)
September 7	**Labour Day, university closed**
September 8	**Classes begin**
	Introduction to THEO 204 (Zoom session will be pre-recorded and a link will be available to all students in the Zoom Schedule page)
Week 2: September 14 – September 20	
	Part One: History and Basic Terms: Lesson 2: The First 400 Years
September 20	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson two**
Week 3: September 21 – September 27	
	Part One: History and Basic Terms: Lesson 3: The Reformation and Beyond
September 21	**Deadline to add fall-term courses**
September 21	**Deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund (DNE) from fall-term courses**
September 27	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson three**
Week 4: September 28 – October 4	
	Part One: History and Basic Terms: Lesson 4: Enlightenment to Modernity
October 4	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson four**
Week 5: October 5 – October 11	

	Part Two: Moral Knowledge and Moral Person: Lesson 5: A Framework for Ethical Deliberation
October 6	**Quiz 1 (Lessons 1-4)**
October 11	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson five**
Mid-Term Break: October 12 – October 16	
October 10	**Reading week begins**
October 12	**Thanksgiving Day, university closed**
October 16	**Reading week ends**
Week 6: October 19 – October 25	
	Part Two: Moral Knowledge and Moral Person: Lesson 6: The Social Structure of Moral Knowing
October 23	**Deadline to submit required documentation to register with the *Access Centre for Students with Disabilities* and request exam accommodations for the Fall 2026 final examination period**
October 25	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson six**
Week 7: October 26 – November 1	
	Part Three: Ethics and Christian Faith: Lesson 7: The Problem of Evil and Human Sinfulness
November 1	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson seven**
Week 8: November 2 – November 8	
	Part Three: Ethics and Christian Faith: Lesson 8: The Role of Christian Faith in Moral Life
November 8	**Last day to response to discussion question Lesson eight**
Week 9: November 9 – November 15	
	Part Four: Moral Development and Formation of Conscience: Lesson 9: The Conscience and Christian Ethics
November 9	**Quiz 2 (Lessons 5-8)**
November 15	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson nine**
Week 10: November 16 – November 22	
	Part Four: Moral Development and Formation of Conscience: Lesson 9: The Conscience and Christian Ethics
November 22	**Deadline for academic withdrawal (DISC) from fall-term courses**
Week 11: November 23 – November 29	
	Part Four: Moral Development and Formation of Conscience: Lesson 10: Moral Development and Christian Ethics
November 29	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson ten**

Week 12: November 30 – December 7	
	Lesson 11: Conclusion to the Course
November 30	**Quiz 3 (Lessons 9-10)**
December 7	**Last day to respond to discussion question Lesson eleven**
Decemer 7	**Last day of classes, fall term**
Examinations Period: December 9 – December 22	
	Final Exam date and time will be posted in the Announcement Section and on your Student Hub