**Saints, Sinners, and Society: Course Plan**

**Day 1 – Introduction: What does Christian ethics do?**

Topics: Describing Christian ethics; the dimensions of human agency; different ethical theories as hermeneutics on the moral life; thinking about ethics as a practice in relation to context and vocation.

Readings: Emilie Townes, “Ethics as an Art of Doing the Work Our Souls Must Have,” from *Womanist Theological Ethics*; John Wesley, “The Scripture Way of Salvation” from *John Wesley’s Sermons*; Ursula Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”; Justo González and Victor Anderson, “Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Imagination: A Redefinition,” from *The Ties that Bind* (48 total pages).

**Day 2 – The Christian and the Polis: Social Power and Social Grace**

Topics: Why we should start with social ethics; the character of social structures and social identity; how race, political economy, gender/sexuality make a difference; what it means to think salvation and transformation in relation to a world.

Readings: Jonathan Tran, “Deep Economy: Dayspring’s Doxology,” from *Asian Americans and the Spirit of Racial Capitalism*; Karen Baker-Fletcher, “How Women Relate to the Evils of Nature,” from *Womanist Theological Ethics*; John Wesley, “The Use of Money” and “A Caution Against Bigotry,” from *John Wesley’s Sermons*; Olúfémi Táíwò, “What’s Next,” from *Reconsidering Reparations* (125 total pages).

**Day 3 – Face to Face: Embodying the Christian Story in Personal Relationship**

Topics: How to think about our responsibilities in relation to those we interact with, using the example of truthfulness and deceit; the theological and ethical stakes of relating love, desire, and grace; how relationships are a site of repetition and refraction of the gospel.

Readings: John Wesley, “Catholic Spirit,” from *John Wesley’s Sermons*; Sissela Bok, “Truthfulness, Deceit, and Trust,” from *Lying*; O. Horn Prouser, “The Truth about Women and Lying”; Anders Nygren, “How Agape-Love is Built Up,” from *Agape and Eros*; Audre Lorde, “The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power,” from *Sexuality and the Sacred* (62 total pages).

**Day 4 – Know Thyself, Care for Thyself: Ethical Relations to Oneself**

Topics: The ethical dimension of the relationship to oneself; what it means to practice the “care of the self” in a world of principalities and powers; what it means to relate to oneself and one’s own life in light of the vocations one has received from God, especially to “professional” ministry.

Readings: Karen Baker-Fletcher, “More Than Suffering: The Healing and Resurrecting Spirit of God,” from *Womanist Theological Ethics*; John Wesley, “The Good Steward,” from *John Wesley’s Sermons*; Michel Foucault, “The Ethics of the Concern of the Self as a Practice of Freedom”; Kathryn Tanner, “How Finance Capitalism Deforms Us” (62 total pages). Here is where we will also attend to Wheeler’s *Sustaining Ministry* (130 pp.)

**Day 5 – Reserved for Conclusions and site visit: perhaps U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum?**

Required Texts to Obtain:

* 1. *John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology*, eds. Albert Outler and Richard Heizenrater (Nashville: Abingdon, 1991)
  2. *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader*, eds. Katie Geneva Cannon, Emilie M. Townes, Angela D. Sims (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011)
  3. Sondra Wheeler, *Sustaining Ministry: Foundations and Practices for Serving Faithfully* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017)

Other assigned readings provided by Blackboard.