

**SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Special Topics in Ethics: Homosexuality and Marriage

ETHIC-5353A

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore issues related to Homosexuality and Marriage in contemporary culture.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Students enrolled in this course will attend the ERLC National Conference, "The Gospel, Homosexuality, and the Future of Marriage." Information about the conference can be found here: <http://erlc.com/conference/schedule>. **Attendance, at all sessions, of the national conference is mandatory.** There will be no course meetings outside of the conference schedule.

Students must enroll in the course and [register for the ERLC national conference](#) separately. These are two separate registration processes. Students who attend will be responsible for their own travel arrangements.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To grow in an understanding of the relationship between theology and marriage.
2. To be able to articulate a biblical understanding of gender roles.
3. To be able to equip a local church with resources that enable them to engage the culture with issues related to homosexuality and marriage.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Participation

The student is required to attend all sessions of the National Conference of the ERLC.

2. Reading

The student will read all the assigned textbooks.

3. Reading Interaction Reports

The student will write a one page, single spaced, interaction paper for each of the required textbooks. This is not a book report. This paper goes beyond the normal parameters of a book

review in that it is more synthesis than analysis. Do not report on the book, interact with it. Each paper will begin with the sentence, "I have read ___% of this book."

Interaction Reports can be turned in at any time; the final due date is: November 15.

4. Reflection Paper

The student will prepare an 8-10 page reflection paper on a significant issue related to Homosexuality and Marriage. This paper will take one, or several issues, related to themes addressed at the conference. The paper should have an inward and an outward focus. The inward focus will relate to your own personal reflections. The outward focus will be an explanation of practical ways that the student could help in either present or future ministry. It also must explain how a local church should address this issue.

This paper is due on Blackboard: December 5.

COURSE TEXTS

Allberry, Sam *Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible, and Same-Sex Attraction*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Burk, Denny. *What is the Meaning of Sex?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Butterfield, Rosaria. *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2012.

Robert Gagnon and Dan Via, *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2003.

Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson, Robert P. George, *What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*. New York: Encounter, 2012.

Reilly, Robert. *Making Gay Okay*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2014.

GRADES

Attendance	25%
Reading and Interaction Reports	25%
Reflection Paper	50%

Grades will be determined by the following scale: 100-98 (A+); 97-93 = A; 92-90 (A-); 89-88 (B+); 87-83 (B); 82-80 (B-); 79-78 (C+); 77-73 (C); 72-70 (C-); 69-68 (D+); 67-63 (D); 62-60 (D-); Below 60 = F.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. When the professor concludes that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the student will receive the grade of zero for the assignment, and the office of the

Vice President for Student Affairs will be notified about the incident. The same actions apply to other acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating on examinations (see Ethical Conduct section in SWBTS catalog).

SPECIAL NEEDS

Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order for special arrangements to be considered.