Please submit assignments (1 & 2) via email to the COS Office no later than January 14, 2013. Directions for emailing the assignments are below.

**Course Description**
This course analyzes the biblical and theological bases for Christian behavior: personal, professional and social. Emphasis is given to the acquisition of pastoral skills in moral discernment and ethically responsible decision making and action as demonstrated in the life and leadership of the pastor.

**Course Objectives**
- Exploration of biblical and theological bases for ethical thinking and activity.
- Survey of major approaches to ethical reasoning.
- Examination of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church as a frame of reference for ethical decision making.
- Exploration of ways to deal with ethical dilemmas inherent in such issues as war and peace, hunger, poverty, political tyranny, immigration, domestic violence, substance abuse, racism, sexism, AIDS, and biomedical technology.
- Reflection on case studies that challenge pastors to examine carefully their ethics and responsibilities.
- Focus on pertinent issues for personal and professional life, with indication of guidelines for ministerial ethics.
- Delineation of and reflection upon essential guidelines for Christian identity and moral behavior.

**Books to be read (#1 MUST be read prior to first class):**
  
  You are to read this book before our first class meeting since you will be using it to complete your Precourse Assignment. It’s an easy read and is meant for pastors and students in ministry. You’ll find it informative and useful.

  
  For our second class meeting you are to choose to read FIVE of these chapters. (You are encouraged to read all fourteen but I’m only requiring five.) Of the five read in depth, choose three and answer the Discussion Questions found at the end of these chapters. These responses will be turned into your instructor for review.


  
  Both of these books (Bush & Fortune) should be read prior to the final class. Choose one of these and write a five page response paper summarizing what you see as the book’s major points, especially those that are most helpful to you. Also add a section addressing what you would want to ask and discuss with the author if you were to have an opportunity to visit with them over lunch.

OR


**Precourse Assignment to be emailed prior to first meeting – January 14, 2013:**

1. **BEFORE YOU HAVE READ ANY OF THE BOOKS.** Describe a situation taken from your life history that required an ethical decision to be made. This should be a decision of consequence that required some time and reflection on your part before being lived out. (This may have been in your role as a pastor or in your family or work life as a lay person.) After carefully writing out the context and situation, name the various influences and guides that played a part in how you made your decision to act (or perhaps to NOT act.) Help the reader to understand how you came to make your decision. The paper should be at least 5 and no more than 7 pages long. This paper will be kept confidential and not shared with the class without your permission.

2. **AFTER YOU HAVE DONE #1.** Read the *Pastor as Moral Guide* book. After you have finished, carefully review the paper you wrote for #1 and write a thoughtful three to four page critique/response to the decision making process you used. Include in your paper a section that asks the following: If the author, Rebekah Miles, was to read your case study, what do you think she would say? What consultation or critique might she offer? Refer directly to the *Pastor as Moral Guide* book in your paper to underscore your reflections.

**Your Teacher**

The class is being led by the Reverend Skip Johnson, Ph.D. I am an ordained UM elder in the North Georgia Conference. I have served local church appointments in Texas and the Atlanta area where I have had responsibilities for pastoral care ministries. I am currently an Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur and also the Training Director for the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia. I am a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Georgia. I can be reached at (404) 687-4693 or by email at skipj@mindspring.com.
DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRECOURSE WORK

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office, any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resend your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu, do not email the instructor your assignment.
2. Emails must be received no later than 11:59pm on the January 14, 2013 deadline.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. Any precourse work received after January 14th at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      1. Precourse work received between January 15th – January 20th is 1 letter grade deduction.
      2. Precourse work received between January 21st – January 26th is 2 letter grade deductions.
3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse Work 113
   a. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.
4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   a. Any version of Microsoft Word or WordPerfect documents will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will be accepted.
   b. All of your assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with course all assignments.
5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email:
   Example: Michelle Levan
   404.727.4587
   michelle.levan@emory.edu
6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined paragraphs must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature. If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as cover sheet for your precourse work, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition, and your contact information.

Plagiarism Policy
I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced.

Plagiarism Defined
“You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow. When accused of plagiarism, some writers claim I must have somehow memorized the passage. When I wrote it, I certainly thought it was my own. That excuse convines very few.” From page 167 of The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, published in 1995 by The University of Chicago Press in Chicago.

7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!!