

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

COURSE DESIGNATOR:

SAT1901H L0101

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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TITLE: Fundamental Christian Ethics I

TERM: F YEAR: 2009-2010

PROFESSOR: Dr. Patricia Murphy

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____

UNLIMITED _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the objective dimensions of morality: scripture, natural moral law, casuistry, faith and morality, moral principles and norms, positive human law. Readings, lectures, discussions, short reflection papers and exam and limited online component, using Blackboard (details of online component) to be discussed during first class.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

To introduce the more “objective” foundations and dimensions of Catholic moral teaching: its sources, history, fundamental principles and distinctive elements. (Christian Ethics II focuses on the more “subjective” dimensions of Catholic moral teaching, including human freedom and responsibility, conscience, sin, virtue, the “sources” of morality and different methods of moral reasoning, etc.)

To investigate critically the claim that Catholic moral teaching is ultimately a response to the desires of the human heart for true fulfillment and happiness.

To invite consideration of the fundamental moral question, “*Why* be good?”

To give some sense of the diversity and richness of the Catholic moral tradition, course readings are drawn from both course texts and a number of primary sources.

PREREQUISITES:

none

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Pinckaers, Servais. *The Sources of Christian Ethics*. Translated by Sr. Mary Thomas Noble. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1995.

Encyclical Letter of John Paul II. *The Splendor of Truth (Veritatis Splendor)*. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 1993.

A course reader (from Tru Copy, 416-928-1146) and weekly handouts (from the instructor, at cost)

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

2 short (750 words) written "Report and Reflection" assignments	30%
Mid-term test (written, in class)	20%
Class attendance and participation (students are expected to complete all required readings, to attend all classes, and to participate in class discussions, including 2 weeks of online discussion)	10%
Final exam (written) (*all grading according to the TST guidelines, in Basic Degree Handbook; **syllabus subject to slight variation, at the discretion of the professor)	40%

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Ashley, Benedict. *Theologies of the Body: Humanist and Christian*. Braintree: The Pope John Centre, 1985.
- _____. *Living the Truth in Love. A Biblical Introduction to Moral Theology*. New York: Alba House, 2000.
(great resource on use of Scripture in moral theology)
- Billy, Dennis J. and James Keating. *Conscience and Prayer. The Spirit of Catholic Moral Theology*.
Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001.
- Bohr, David. *Catholic Moral Tradition*. Revised. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division,
1999. (an excellent complement to *The Sources of Christian Ethics*; more historical than systematic; finishes
with brief sections on sexual ethics, social ethics and bioethics; regrettably, out of print)
- Caffara, Carlo. *Living in Christ. Fundamental Principles of Catholic Moral Teaching*. Translated by
Christopher Ruff. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1987. (more meditative than systematic. . .)
- Cessario, Romanus. *Introduction to Moral Theology*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press,
2001.
- _____. *The Moral Virtues and Theological Ethics*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991.
- Chesterton, G.K. *St. Thomas Aquinas*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1933.
(perhaps the best accessible introduction to Aquinas!)
- Curran, Charles and Richard McCormick, eds. *Readings in Moral Theology, No. 8*. Mahweh: Paulist Press,
1993.
- Fernandez, Aurelio and James Socias. *Our Moral Life in Christ*. Princeton, NJ: Sceptor Press, 2005. (very
accessible, organized around the *Catechism*.)
- Gallagher, John. *The Basis for Christian Ethics*. New York: Paulist Press, 1985.
- Hammel, Ronald P. and Kenneth R. Himes. *Introduction to Christian Ethics: A Reader*. New York: Paulist
Press, 1986.
- Harak, G. Simon. *Virtuous Passions: The Formation of Christian Character*. Mahweh, New Jersey: Paulist
Press, 1993.

Hibbs, Thomas and John O'Callahan, eds. *Recovering Nature: Essays in Natural Philosophy, Ethics, and Metaphysics in Honor of Ralph McInerny*. South Bend, Indiana: Notre Dame Press, 1999.

Kaczor, Christopher, ed. *Proportionalism: For and Against*. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2000. (see especially the contributions by Fuchs and Grisez)

Lowery, Mark. *Living the Good Life: What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Moral Theology*. Ann Arbor, Michigan, Charis Books, 2003. (A VERY accessible and comprehensive introduction; a useful companion to *Veritatis Splendor*)

May, William E. *An Introduction to Moral Theology*. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 1991.

May, William, ed. *Principles of Catholic Moral Life*. Chicago: Franciscan Press, 1979. (now out of print; a collection of papers from a conference, this volume provides a good introduction to key areas of moral theology: organized around themes of sin, conscience, natural law, the distinctiveness of Christian ethics.)

McCormick, Richard. *Notes on Moral Theology: 1965-1980*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1081.

McInerny, Ralph. *Ethica Thomistica*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1982.

Melina, Livio. *Sharing in Christ's Virtues: For a Renewal of Moral Theology in Light of Veritatis Splendor*. Translated by William May. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2001.

Odozor, Paulinus. *Richard McCormick and the Renewal of Moral Theology*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995.

Pieper, Josef. *The Cardinal Virtues*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1965.

Pinckaers, Servais. *Morality: The Catholic View*. South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2003.

_____. *The Pursuit of Happiness, God's Way: Living the Beatitudes*. New York: Alba House, 1998.

_____. *The Pinckaers Reader: Renewing Thomistic Moral Theology*. Edited by John Berkman and Craig Titus. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2005.

Rice, Charles. *50 Questions on the Natural Law*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1994.