

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: HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE**

**TERM:** F **YEAR:** 2009-2010

**PROFESSOR:** JEANNE COVER IBVM

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED X

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course will undertake the study of Christian sexual morality and the theology of Christian marriage. Attention will be given to the development of sexual ethics, through consideration of their historical roots and the contemporary situation. The relevant theological issues and pastoral considerations with respect to specific moral questions arising within marital and non-marital sexuality will be discussed.

The course will be balanced between lectures, seminars and discussion of the questions which arise from the readings set for each week. It is expected that these readings will be done prior to the specified lecture.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

#### **1. To probe the essential relationship of Sexuality and Personhood**

- To come to an appreciation of our sexuality as inseparable from our being human. Just as it is that we encounter God at the depth of our being as sexual beings, so it is also that our view of God has implications for our expression of sexuality.
- To recognise that sexuality is a mode of being human which requires and expresses itself in relationships – with God, oneself and even the whole of creation.
- To formulate an understanding of the **meaning of human sexuality** which is true to the human person as created in the image and likeness of God and thus called to behave responsibly in the communication of this meaning.

#### **2. To become familiar with the history of Christian Sexual Ethics**

- To examine the challenges offered to Christian sexual ethics as a result of changing philosophical, societal and cultural contexts and scientific discoveries.
- To be able to discern the evolution and continuity of the Church's teaching on sexual ethics.
- To understand the implications of contrasting views of the meaning of human sexuality and approaches to human sexual ethics for the formulation and communication of sexual ethics.

#### **3. To come to an understanding of Developments in the Theology of Marriage and the views of sexuality underlying these developments.**

- To provide students with the necessary sources of information regarding the Catholic Church's teachings on Sexual ethics and a forum in which to discuss the Christian anthropology and principles of morality on which these teachings are based.

#### **4. To examine sexuality and such social concerns as abortion, genetic defects and technical reproduction of human persons (in vitro fertilisation etc.)**

**PREREQUISITES:**

Students who wish to take this course are not required to have the instructor's permission prior to enrolling for the course. In the unlikely event that a student finds some concepts difficult, relevant additional reading material or instruction will be provided by the professor.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:****The Following Texts will be useful.**

Coleman, Gerald D. SS. Human Sexuality: An All-Embracing Gift. New York: Alba House, 1992.

Genovesi, Vincent J. sj. In Pursuit of Love: Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier, 1990.

Lawler, Ronald, Joseph Boyle, William May. Catholic Sexual Ethics: A Summary, Explanation and Defense, Second Edition. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1998,

McCarthy, Donald G., Edward J. Bayer, John A Leiss editors. Handbook on Critical Sexual Issues, revised edition. Braintree, Massachusetts: The Pope John XXIII Center, 1989.

In order to meet the needs and interests of students a wide range of references is given for each topic. Recommendations will be made in class as to appropriate selection. Relevant material will be made available for photocopying.

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:****Evaluation Scheme**

	Percentage	Component
1	30	Seminar presentation
2	40	Two papers [7-10 pages each] or one long paper 15-20 pages]
3	30	Take-home Examination

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Coleman, Gerald D. SS. Human Sexuality: An All-Embracing Gift. New York: Alba House, 1992.

Genovesi, Vincent J. sj. In Pursuit of Love: Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier, 1990.

Human Sexuality and Personhood. . Pope John Paul Center, 1990.

Kasper, Walter. Theology of Christian Marriage. New York: Crossroad, 1993.

Keane, Philip S. Sexual Morality: A Catholic Perspective. New York Ramsey, Toronto: Paulist Press, 1977

Lawler, Ronald, Joseph Boyle, William May. Catholic Sexual Ethics: A Summary, Explanation and Defense, Second Edition. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1998,

May, William E. Sex, Marriage and Chastity. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1982,

McCarthy, Donald G., Edward J. Bayer, John A Leiss editors. Handbook on Critical Sexual Issues, revised edition. Braintree, Massachusetts: The Pope John XXIII Center, 1989.

Mugavero, Bishop Francis. "Sexuality-God's Gift: Pastoral Letter." Catholic Mind 74 May, 1976).

Quinn, Archbishop John R. "Toward an Understanding of the Letter "On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons." In The Vatican and Homosexuality.

Robinson, Bishop Geoffrey. Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church: reclaiming the Spirit of Jesus. Victoria, Australia: John Garratt Publishing, 2007.

Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Declaration on Some Questions of Sexual Ethics. Dcember 29, 1975.

Selling, Joseph A. "Evolution and Continuity in Conjugal Morality." In Personalist Morals. Leuven: University Press, 1988.