

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:** Moral Theology

**TERM:** S **YEAR:** 20121 [January to April 2012]

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Patricia Murphy

**REGISTRATION:** UNLIMITED

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to foundations of Catholic moral theology. Topics to be studied include scripture, tradition, natural law, relationship between faith & morality, moral norms, virtue and vice, freedom, conscience and magisterium, etc. Readings, lectures, discussion, short written assignment, mid-term test and final exam.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

To introduce the foundations and key elements of Catholic moral teaching: its sources, history and fundamental principles and such topics as 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:**

Encyclical Letter of John Paul II. ***The Splendor of Truth (Veritatis Splendor)***. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 1993. (available at Crux Books, 5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto, 416-599-2749)

Pinckaers, Servais. ***Morality: The Catholic View***. South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2003. (available at Crux Books)

Lowery, Mark. ***Living the Good Life: What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Moral Theology***. Ann Arbor, Michigan, Charis Books, 2003 (available at Crux Books).

A **course reader**, available from Tru Copy (northeast corner of Bay St. and St. Joseph St., Toronto, 416 928-1146) at cost

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

Participation in class discussion	10%
Short mid-term written assignment	25%
Mid-term Test	25%
Final exam (take-home format)	40%

**\*Criteria for evaluation are found in the TST BD handbook**

**\*\*syllabus subject to slight variation, at the discretion of the professor**

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Ashley, Benedict. *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)

Bohr, David. *Catholic Moral Tradition*. Revised. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 2006. (an excellent complement to *The Sources of Christian Ethics*; more historical than systematic; finishes with brief sections on sexual ethics, social ethics and bioethics)

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.

Di Noia, J.A and Romanus Cessario. Eds. *Veritatis Splendor and the Renewal of Moral Theology*. Princeton, NJ: Scepter Publishers, 1999.

Fernandez, Aurelio and James Socias. *Our Moral Life in Christ*. Princeton, NJ: Scepter Press, 2005. (very accessible, organized around the *Catechism*.)

Gallagher, John. *The Basis for Christian Ethics*. New York: Paulist Press, 1985.

Grisez, Germain. *The Way of the Lord Jesus. Vol 1. Christian Moral Principles*. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1983.

\_\_\_\_\_ and Russell Shaw. *Personal Vocation*. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 2003.

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*. Mahwah, 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.

Hutter, Reinhard and Matthew Levering, eds. *Ressourcement Thomism: Sacred Doctrine, the Sacraments and the Moral Life: Essays in Honor of Romanus Cessario, O.P.* Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2010.

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

Mattison, William. *Introducing Moral theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*. Grand Rapids, MI : Brazos Press, 2008.

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, 1981.

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.

Rhonheimer, Martin. *The Perspective of the Acting Person: Essays in the Renewal of Thomistic Moral Philosophy*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Perspective of Morality: Philosophical Foundations of Thomistic Virtue Ethics*. Translated by Gerald Malsbary. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

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

Selling, Joseph and Jans, Jan. *The Splendor of Accuracy*. Grand Rapids, MI: William Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.