

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.

TITLE: Christian Ethics II

TERM: S YEAR: 2009-2010

PROFESSOR: Dr. Patricia Murphy

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to the nature of moral agency and the good as understood in Catholic moral tradition: conscience, freedom, responsibility, moral decision making, virtue. Readings, lectures, discussions, short reflection papers and final written exam; the course will also include a limited online component, using Blackboard; details will be discussed on the first day of classes

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

To introduce the more "subjective" dimensions of morality: the nature of the human person and freedom and responsibility, the relationship between freedom of law, conscience, the moral act and the "sources" of morality, patterns of moral reasoning, virtue, vice and sin (thereby complementing Ethics I which focused on the "objective" and historical dimensions of the tradition of Catholic moral reasoning)

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 draw attention to continuing richness and relevance of Catholic moral teaching, especially when addressing some of the most pressing complex ethical questions of the day

**PREREQUISITES:**

Christian Ethics I

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

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

A course reader and handouts will be available from Tru Copy at cost.

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

2 short (4-5 pages) written assignments	(2 X 20% each)	40%
Class attendance and participation (students are expected to complete required readings, to attend all classes and to participate in class discussions)		15%
Final exam (written)		45%

## 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*. Mahwah: 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*. 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 McInerney*. 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, 1981.

McInerney, 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.