

CHRISTIAN MORAL THEOLOGY AND ETHICS

IPS 553-001 CLASS #6982

Instructor: Bro. Edward van Merrienboer, O.P.

Water Tower, 35 E. Pierson, Room 323 (?)

Contact: (312) 666-3244 ex 724 or Broedop@aol.com Tuesday, 4:15 PM-6:45 PM

Fall Semester 2010

Course Outline and Assignments

Course Description: This course examines the fundamental insights of Christian ethics and morality as they relate to everyday living as disciples of Jesus Christ and as citizens in a complex ethical world. Topics covered will include: the history of Christian morality, formation of a Christian ethical community, theological anthropology, models of ethical decision-making, resources for moral living found in the scriptures, Catholic traditions, human experience, and social sciences, conscience and its formation, sin (personal, inter-personal and social), grace, conversion and virtue. These foundational issues and Catholic teachings will be integrated with pastoral applications through the use of case studies on economic justice, domestic violence, war, sexuality, environmental justice and biomedical ethics.

Course Objectives and Outcomes: The goals of this course are, namely, to prepare students to engage in moral and ethical discourse, and provide students with a framework for analyzing moral and ethical questions. At the end of this course students should be able to identify and understand theories at the root of moral and ethical discourse.

Learning Methods and Requirements: Lectures, readings, three short reflection papers on love, conscience and sin and one major paper that will analyze the solutions of different moral and ethical thinkers to a specific case study and a pastoral interview. Class participation through active listening, group discussion, and reading the assignments.

Office Appointments: Please contact me before or after class if you will to have an appointment with me or contact me at my email address listed above.

Required Readings:

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994 (Part Three: Life in Christ).
Moral Wisdom. Sheed and Ward Book, 2010
Morality: The Catholic View. Servais Pinckaers, St. Augustine Press, 2003
Reason Informed by Faith: Foundation of Catholic Morality. Richard M. Gula, Paulist Press, 1989
The Sunflower. Simon Wiesenthal. Schocken Books, 1998.

Recommend Readings:

Veritatis splendor. John Paul II, 1993
The Bible and Morality: Biblical Roots of Christian Conduct. Pontifical Biblical Commission, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2010
The Ethics of Aquinas. Stephen J. Pope ((ed.) Georgetown University Press, 2002.
Principles for a Catholic Morality: Revised Edition. Timothy E. O'Connell. Harper One, 1990.
A History of Catholic Moral Theology in the Twentieth Century. James F. Keenan. Continuum, 2010
New Testament Ethics: The Legacies of Jesus and Paul. Frank J. Matera. Westminster Press, 1996
Let Justice Roll Down: The Old Testament, Ethics and Christian Life. Bruce C. Birch. Westminster Press, 1991.
An Introduction to Christian Ethics. (Second Edition) Roger H. Crook. Prentice Hall, 1995.
A Church That Can and Cannot Change: the Development of Catholic Moral Teaching. John T. Noonan, Jr. Univ. Of Notre Dame Press, 2003.
Ethics in Pastoral Ministry. Richard M. Gula. Paulist Press, 1996.

- In Pursuit of Love: Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality.*** (Second Edition) Vincent J. Genovesi. Liturgical Press, 1996.
- The Making of Moral Theology: A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition.*** John Mahoney. Clarendon Paperbacks, 1990.
- The Readings in Moral Theology Series*** edited by Charles Curran and Richard McCormick, S.J.
- Doing Right and Being Good: Catholic and Protestant Readings in Christian Ethics.*** David Oki Ahearn and Peter R. Gathje, Editors. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2005.
- Moral Discernment.*** Richard M. Gula, Paulist Press, 1997

Grading and Evaluation: Class attendance and participation will constitute 15% of your grade. Your reflection papers will constitute 30% of your grade (10 points for each paper), your pastoral interview will constitute 25% and the major paper will be worth 30% of your grade.

Class Dates: Topics and Assignments

- Aug. 31 Course Introduction
 Readings for next class: Gula, **Reason Informed by Faith (hereafter Gula Reason)**
 Pages 1-59
 Familiarize yourself with Part III-Life in Christ from the **Catechism of the Catholic Church (hereafter CCC)**
- Sept. 7 Introduction to Moral Theology: The Moral Person
 Reading: Gula Reason, pages 63-74
 Keenan, **Moral Wisdom. (Hereafter MW)** pp 2-26 (Questions at end of Chapter are for your first reflection paper due September 21st.)

The Sunflower. Explanation of major paper assignment and how it relates to this reading. A guide will be given to you for this assignment.
- Sept.14 Old Testament Ethics: Justice and Law
 Reading: Gula Reason 165-198
- Sept. 21 Jesus Christ: Love and Motives
 Reading: Pinckaers, Part I-pages 1-62
 MW pages 89-98
- Sept. 28 History of Moral Theology - Part I
 Reading: MW pages 27-43 (Questions at end of Chapter are for your second reflection paper due October 19th)
 MW pages 99-116
- Oct. 5 No class**
- Oct. 12 Pastoral Interview (Information on this assignment will be given in class with handout)
- Oct. 19 History of Moral Theology - Part II
 Reading: Gula Reason, pages 199-264
 MW pages 45-65 (Questions at end of Chapter are for your third reflection paper due November 2nd)
- Oct. 26 Systems of Moral Reasoning in Contemporary Moral Teachings

Reading: Pinkaers, Part II, pages 65-113
CCC, #1730-1775

Pastoral Interview Report Due.

- Nov. 2 Grace, Freedom, Sin and Conversion
 Reading: CCC #1776-1802
 Gula Reason, pages 75-162
- Nov. 9 Conscience: Function and Formation
 Reading: Gula Reason, pages 265-299
 MW pages 117-134
- Nov. 16 Virtue and Inter-Personal Ethics
 Reading: CCC #1803-1876
 MW pages 135-152
- Nov. 23 Human Sexuality, Marriage and Family
 Reading CCC #2331-2400 & 2514-2533
 MW pages 155-169
- Nov. 30 Public Morality: Economics and Politics
 Reading: CCC# 2401-2463
- Dec. 7 War and Peace Ethics: the State of the Question
 Reading: #1877-1948 & 2258-2330
- Dec. 14 Pastoral Ministry and Morality
 Major Paper Due

(* I will try to arrange a guest speaker on topics of Bio-Medical Ethics if there is a class interest between Nov. 16th and Dec. 7th.)