

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at The University of Western Ontario**

**Moral Theology 5132A / Religious Studies 2238F
Fundamental Moral Theology**

Course Outline – Fall 2017

Tuesdays 7:00 PM – 9:50 PM

St. Peter's Seminary, Room 102

Instructor: Fr. Murray D. Kuemper

Office Hours by appointment: 519-432-1824, ext. 226 e-mail: mkuemper@uwo.ca

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of the fundamental concepts of the Catholic moral tradition in light of the Second Vatican Council: scriptural foundations, conversion and discipleship, the role of the Magisterium, natural law and the law of Christ, conscience, the moral act, sin and virtue.

B. GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge

1. To know and understand the basic terminology and concepts of the Catholic moral tradition.
2. To be able to trace the basic historical trajectory of the Catholic moral tradition from the time of the early Church, through the scholastic and manualist traditions, concluding with Vatican II and its impact.
3. To understand the role of key figures in the development of the Catholic moral tradition.
4. To develop a basic understanding of how the Catholic moral tradition contributes to the public mission of the Church.

Skills

1. To read critically the literature in the field with a view toward developing the abilities to follow arguments, teach, and intelligently discuss issues of morality.
2. To help the student reflect critically on the moral dimensions of human experience so as to develop an intelligent and affective grasp of the moral issues and values that promote human dignity.
3. To acquire the ability to undertake moral discernments through application of Catholic moral teaching.

Attitudes

1. To challenge the student to recognise that moral theology is not simply a system of ideas and doctrines, but that it must also be lived and applied in a personal, pastoral and prudent way.

C. REQUIRED TEXTS

PINCKAERS, SERVAIS, O.P. *The Sources of Christian Ethics*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1995. (UWO Bookstore)

JOHN PAUL II, POPE. Encyclical Letter *Veritatis Splendor*, "The Splendor of Truth," 1993. Print edition, St. Paul Books and Media, available at UWO bookstore; or online: http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_06081993_veritatis-splendor.html

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Part Three: Life in Christ, nos. 1691-2557. Various print editions, or online: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

The Holy Bible:

Students are expected to have their own and bring it to class on days specified.

Articles or chapters from other sources will be given as handouts or internet links.

D. CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Note: The indicated readings may be altered and/or expanded during the course of the semester.

September 12 Introduction; Course Overview; Definitions; Basic Questions in Moral Theology

- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-44; also Forward & Intro

September 19 The Human Person as Moral Agent

- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapter 3, pp. 47-94; *Veritatis Splendor* nos. 6-27

September 26 Scriptural Foundations of Moral Theology

- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapter 5, pp. 104-133
- **Reading Assignment #1 due**

October 3 Scriptural Foundations (continued); Sermon on the Mount

- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapter 6, pp. 134-167; Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 5 to 7

October 10 – University Break Week; No Class

October 17 Thomistic Moral Theology

- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapters 7 & 9, pp. 168-190, 216-234
- **Reading Assignment #2 due**

October 24 **Mid-term Test (One hour)**

Nominalism; the Manualist Tradition; "Reflex Principles"; Probabilism

- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapters 10 & 11, pp. 240-279

October 31 Freedom of Indifference, Freedom for Excellence

- *Read:* Pinckaers Chapters 14 & 15, pp. 327-378
- **Research Paper Proposal due**

November 7 Conscience (Truth, Law, Moral Norms)

- *Read:* *Catechism* nos. 1776-1802; Ratzinger article (to be given in class)
- **Reading Assignment #3 due**

November 14 Conscience (continued); The Moral Act

- *Read:* *Veritatis Splendor*, nos. 28-83
- **Course evaluation**

November 21 The Moral Act (continued)

- *Read:* Gallagher article (to be given in class)

November 28 Principles of Moral Decision-Making; Double-Effect; Proportionalism

- *Read:* TBA
- **Research Paper due; Religious Studies 2238F Take-home exam given**

December 5 Sin

Wrap-up and Review

- *Read:* TBA
- **Religious Studies 2238F – Take-home exam due**

NOTE:

1. There will be no final exam in the December exam period for Religious Studies 2238F.
2. There will be an Oral Final exam for Theology 5132A during the exam period.

E. ASSESSMENT

1. Questions based on Readings (3 x 5% each = 15% of final grade):

Students will respond to three (3) questions provided by the Instructor, drawn from the assigned readings. Responses will be typed, 350-500 words. They are due in class, and may form part of class discussion, on the following dates: **September 26, October 17 & November 7.**

2. Mid-Term Exam (20% of final grade):

One hour, written, in class **October 24.**

3. Research Paper (35% of final grade):

Prepare an original research paper, 2500 words, plus footnotes and bibliography.

A one-page proposal of the topic, including major sources, is to be given to the instructor by the end of class on **October 31.** The final paper is due by the end of class on **November 28.**

4. Final Exam (30% of final grade):

a) *Students in Theology 5132A* – 15 minute oral exam, **during the exam period.**

b) *Students in Religious Studies 2238F* – Written take-home exam, given on November 28, due at the end of class on **December 5.**

GRADING SCALE

- A+ 90 - 100% – *for profound and creative work*: exceptional performance with clear evidence of original thinking; a superior grasp of the subject matter with sound critical evaluations; strong evidence of an extensive knowledge base;
- A 80 - 89% – *for excellent work*: outstanding performance with indication the student is approaching some original thinking; good organization and a well developed capacity to critique, analyse and synthesize; an excellent grasp of the subject matter; thorough knowledge of the relevant literature;
- B 70 - 79% – *for good work*: good performance with evidence of a grasp of the subject matter; some evidence of a critical capacity and analytic ability; a reasonable understanding of the relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature;
- C 60 - 69% – *for adequate work*: intellectually adequate performance of a student who is profiting from his or her academic experience; an understanding of the subject matter and the ability to understand the basic concepts found in the material;
- D 50 - 59% – *for marginal work*: minimally acceptable performance; some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter and some ability to synthesize it;
- F below 50% – *for wholly inadequate work*: a failing performance in which there is little evidence of even a superficial understanding of the subject matter; an overall weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

Chicago Style

According to the policy adopted by the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary, all citations, references and bibliographies in written assignments must follow the formatting prescribed in the Chicago Manual of Style (Footnotes and Bibliography). Footnotes are to be used, rather than author-date references in the body of the text. For further information, please review and consult the summary provided by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary at the following web address:

<https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf>

Class Attendance

Any student missing more than three lectures will not be admitted to either the final oral exam or the final paper (take-home exam) without consultation with, and the permission of, the instructor.

F. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (all are found in either SPS or KUC libraries)

AQUINAS, THOMAS. *Summa Theologica*. New York: Benzinger Brothers, 1947.

(Full text available online at www.newadvent.org or www.dhspriority.org/thomas/summa)

ASHLEY, BENEDICT M., O.P. *Living the Truth in Love: A Biblical Introduction to Moral Theology*. New York: St. Paul's, 1996. [On Reserve]

BOHR, DAVID. *Catholic Moral Tradition*, Revised ed. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1999. [On Reserve]

- BERKMAN, JOHN AND WILLIAM C. MATTISON III, eds. *Searching for a Universal Ethic: Multidisciplinary, Ecumenical, and Interfaith Responses to the Catholic Natural Law Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2014.
- CESSARIO, ROMANUS, O.P. *Introduction to Moral Theology*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2001.
- _____. *The Moral Virtues and Theological Ethics*. 2nd Ed. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2009.
- DI NOIA, J.A., O.P. AND ROMANUS CESSARIO, O.P., eds. *Veritatis Splendor and the Renewal of Moral Theology*. Chicago: Midwest Theological Forum, 1999.
- FISHER, ANTHONY. *Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- GALLAGHER, JOHN, C.S.B. *The Basis for Christian Ethics*. New York: Paulist Press, 1985.
- HAMEL, RONALD P. AND KENNETH R. HIMES, OFM, eds. *Introduction to Christian Ethics: A Reader*. New York: Paulist Press, 1989.
- KACZOR, CHRISTOPHER. *Proportionalism and the Natural Law Tradition*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2002.
- LONG, STEVEN A. *The Teleological Grammar of the Moral Act*. Ave Maria, FL: Sapientia, 2007.
- MAHONEY, JOHN. *The Making of Moral Theology: A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- MELINA, LIVIO. *Sharing in Christ's Virtues: For a Renewal of Moral Theology in Light of Veritatis Splendor*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2001.
- PESCHKE, KARL H. *Christian Ethics: Moral Theology in the Light of Vatican II* (2 volumes). Alcester, England: C. Goodcliffe Neale Ltd., 1985. [On Reserve]
- PIEPER, JOSEF. *The Four Cardinal Virtues*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1966.
- PINCKAERS, SERVAIS, O.P. *Morality: The Catholic View*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2001. [On Reserve]
- _____. *Passions & Virtue*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2015.
- _____. *The Pinckaers Reader: Renewing Thomistic Moral Theology*. Edited By John Berkman and Craig Steven Titus. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2005.
- RATZINGER, JOSEPH CARDINAL. *On Conscience*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2007.
- REY-MERMET, THÉODULE, C.S.S.R. *Moral Choices: The Moral Theology of Saint Alphonsus Ligouri*. Ligouri, MO: Ligouri Publications, 1998.

G. IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION (from King's College Dean's Memo)

Faculty Office Hours:

Faculty office hours can be found on King's homepage under the menu heading Current Students (<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/planning/faculty-office-hours/>) and are also posted on the bulletin board across from the Administrative Assistants Office on the second floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). Student Medical Certificate (SMC)
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Tests/Examinations:

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Support Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Accessibility Services (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>
For emotional/mental health assistance see: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The website for Academic Services at King's University College is

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom:

King's University College at The University of Western Ontario acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See

https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf

Inappropriate use of laptops [or smart phones] during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.”

Statement on Academic Offences:

King’s is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://turnitin.uwo.ca/>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Copyright re: Course Material:

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright . Faculty Members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a Faculty Member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student’s answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student’s written permission.

(Commercial use of Course material - <http://umd.edu/legal/commercial.html>)

Mailbox re Submission of Late Essays/Assignments ONLY:

Only late essays/assignments not handed in at class may be dropped off in the drop box, located between the inner doors of the Cardinal Carter Library. Please inform your students that essays dropped into the mailbox will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. Essays should be placed in an envelope addressed to the professor with the course code and student number clearly indicated.

NOTE: For this course, the chute at the Cardinal Carter Library may NOT be used. Late assignments may be dropped off only at the Reception office of St. Peter's Seminary.

Class Cancellations:

All reported class cancellations are posted at: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/outages-service-interruptions/>

NOTE: For this course, class cancellations will be given in advance by announcement at the previous lecture or by e-mail notification.

(These services are not meant to replace those offered at St. Peter's Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.)