

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at Western University**  
**Fall 2023**

**5243A**  
**Marriage and Sexuality**

**Thursdays, 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**  
**Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Reading Week Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – no class**  
**Location of Class: Auditorium**

**Instructor:** Prof. Teresa Hartnett  
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**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a theological and pastoral investigation of the meaning of Christian marriage and human sexuality. The course will undertake the study of the scriptural, historical and theological development of the Sacrament of Marriage. It will also look at relevant theological issues and pastoral considerations in regard to moral questions arising within marital and non-marital sexuality.

Course discussions will include Theology of the Body, *Humanae Vitae*, *Amoris Laetitia*, heterosexual and homosexual moral concerns, divorce and family life, and new challenges to marriage in today's world. Practical applications of the material covered in class will be stressed.

**B. COURSE GOALS**

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

**KNOWLEDGE:**

1. To understand the Roman Catholic tradition of marriage, its foundation in God's revelation to us in Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and human reasoning regarding God's salvation at work in marriage and family life;
2. To understand the methodology of moral theology as it applies to questions of marriage, human sexuality, and the 21st century, drawing on the four sources: (1) biblical themes of scripture, (2) the historical testimony of the Catholic moral tradition, (3) rational philosophical reasoning, and (4) the influences of modern sciences such as psychology and sociology;
3. To acquaint the student with some of the classical Christian writers dealing with marriage and human sexuality, along with more recent writers;
4. To include other faith-based and secular perspectives important for critical and ethical

dialogue in a secular and pluralistic society;

5. To acquaint the student with some of the more recent theological attempts to articulate or understand marriage and human sexuality;
6. To understand how the action of the Holy Spirit in the world can make it possible for a faith-based position to impact on the secular systems legislating on moral questions;
7. To discuss the “real-world” situation of marriage and sexuality in society and local parishes, so as to make students aware of the sensitivity and understanding required to develop welcoming church communities.

### **SKILLS:**

1. To enable the student to understand the scriptural background and applicability of divine inspiration and revelation pertinent to marriage and sexuality;
2. To expect the student to understand, and for Catholics to be able to accept, the Church's Magisterium as the normative source of teachings on faith and morals, and to appreciate the openness of the tradition to historical development in the understanding of the sacrament of marriage and of the teachings on human sexuality;
3. To enable the students to read and analyze appropriately the documents of Church teaching on marriage and human sexuality;
4. To develop a practical set of prudential and pastoral skills in dealing with people struggling to live up to Church teachings regarding marriage and human sexual encounters;
5. To assist the students to integrate what they have learned by witnessing and using adult modes of education regarding various kinds of lectures, discussions, role-playing scenarios, audio-visuales, written projects and reflective modes of learning.

### **ATTITUDES:**

1. To develop in the student a critical awareness of the present moral climate regarding marriage and human sexuality in order to promote the dignity of the human person, of the human body, of marriage and the family as seen by our Christian and Catholic tradition;
2. To foster a sense of compassion and care for all those who struggle in areas of marriage and divorce as well as various difficulties encountered in living out one's own sexuality;
3. To help the student to embrace and resist when necessary, disagreement and ambiguity in the relationship of the teachings of the church and its application in our modern society;
4. To allow for just and hope-filled approaches in articulating our church teachings in school and pastoral settings regarding human relationships;
5. To encourage an understanding of the sacrificial nature of marriage and human sexuality as lived out with the grace in the world.

## **C. ASSESSMENT**

### **1. In-class Presentation:**

- Value: 20%
- Students will give a presentation and lead a discussion on selected topics.
- Each student will need to prepare a one page handout on the topic of discussion.
- **Topic sign-up is on September 28th**
- **Student-led Discussion Days: November 16th and 23rd**

## 2. Essay

- Value: 25%
- Due: *anytime* from November 1st to 16th
- Students will write an essay using the same topic as their presentation.
- The essays are due **one week before the student-led discussion class.**
- **Topic sign-up is on September 28th**

## 3. Weekly News Reports and Class Participation

- Value: 15%
- Each week, students will read **two** news articles about marriage and/or sexuality from mainstream news services (e.g. CNN, Zenit, BBC, Newsweek, London Free Press, etc.). Students have the freedom to choose the articles they want to read, but must log the title of their article, author and website link or source if available. **At the end of the term students will submit all their chosen readings for the term.**
- Three students, randomly chosen by the professor each week, will give a **very brief** synopsis of the articles, noting how they are relevant to the course at hand.
- Students are encouraged to engage in adult-based learning, especially following the course's historical sections. Please offer your ideas, opinions, and observations during our respectful class conversations.

## 4. Final Exam:

- Value: 40%
- Take-home Exam will be used for final exam. Details will be provided closer to date.

## D. READING

### Required:

Weekly news articles pertaining to marriage and/or sexuality (which must be recorded and submitted at the end of the term.)

Amoris Laetitia or "The Joy of Love" - the Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis Downloaded from the Vatican website at:

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20160319\\_amoris-laetitia\\_en.pdf](https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia_en.pdf)

"Male And Female He Created Them" Towards A Path Of Dialogue On The Question Of Gender Theory In Education. Download from Vatican Website at:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccatheduc\\_doc\\_20190202\\_maschio-e-femmina\\_en.pdf](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_20190202_maschio-e-femmina_en.pdf)

Saint Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio. The Christian Family in the Modern World November 22, 1981 Download from Vatican Website at: [http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_19811122\\_familiaris-consortio.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html)

**Recommended:**

Carl Anderson and Jose Granados, *Called to Love: Approaching John Paul II's Theology of the Body*, New York: Doubleday, 2009.

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

Daniel Hauser, *Marriage and Christian Life: A Theology of Christian Marriage*, Lanham: University Press of America, 2005.

These three books are on course reserve at the A.P. Mahoney Library.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

**Topic 1:** Introduction

The Meaning of Marriage and Sexuality Overview

**Topic 2:** Marriage and Sexuality in Scripture

**Topic 3:** Marriage and Sexuality in the Tradition

**Topic 4:** Marriage and Sexuality: The Catechism of the Catholic Church

**Topic 5:** Shifts in Marriage and Sexuality Norms

**Topic 6:** Marriage in the Post-Modern Period

Vatican II

*Humanae Vitae*

**Topic 7:** The Theology of the Body

God's plan vs Cultural Understanding of love and sex

**Topic 8:** *Familiaris Consortio and Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*

Ideal vs Reality; Pastoral implications

**Topic 9:** Marriage as Procreative

Continuity and Change in the tradition

**Topic 10:** Sexuality and Social Concerns

Abortion, genetic defects and technical reproduction of the human person

**Topic 11:** Theological and Pastoral Considerations

Pre-marital and extra-marital sexuality

Pornography and other sexual variants

Violence through sex

Self-pleasure

LGBTQ Orientations

Same-Sex Marriage

**UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Students are responsible** for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

**Accommodations for 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.

**How to Request Academic Accommodation – King's Students:**

(<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/medical-accommodation/>)

**UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:**

([http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf))

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

**All students requiring academic accommodations for tests and examinations must use the services offered through King's University College.**

**Scholastic Offences:** 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](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.

<http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

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

**Scholarly Citation:** According to the policy adopted by the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary, all

citations, references and bibliographies in written assignments are to follow the formatting prescribed in the Chicago Manual of Style. Footnotes are to be used, rather than author-date references in the body of the text. Please review and consult the summary provided by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary at <https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf> for further information.

**Submission of Assignments:** It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Students who are unable to hand in assignments or take examinations for legitimate reasons must consult with the instructor. If the reason is medical, students may be required to provide a note from a doctor. Ordinarily, all assignments and exams will be made up at a later date. In certain circumstances, the final grading scheme may be re-weighted if the missed assignment is of a low weight.

**Selection and Registration of Courses:** Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

**Classroom Conduct:** Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for everyone and with professionalism in all classroom activities. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used for classroom academic activities only. The use of such devices must always be in accord with the common good of the whole learning community as specified by the instructor. The instructor may choose at any time to limit their use for instructional purposes or because of the disruptive use of such devices.

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

**Support Services:**

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

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

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/>

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <https://uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html> 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/>.

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