

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

Moral Theology II
(Moral Theology 5133B)

Course Outline – Winter 2024

[Updated December 6th, 2023]

Instructor: Fr. Jason Kuntz

Office Hours by appointment: 519-432-1824, ext. 226 e-mail: jkuntz4@uwo.ca

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will continue to develop the themes introduced in Fundamental Moral Theology through a detailed study of the theological and cardinal virtues along with their contrary vices. Emphasis will be given to the pastoral accompaniment of others as they strive to grow in virtue.

B. GOALS

By the end of the course the student should know and understand:

1. The most important biblical texts related to the virtues.
2. The role of the theological and cardinal virtues in the Christian life.
3. The specific nature of each of the virtues, and what St. Thomas identifies as their subjective, integral, and potential parts.
4. The principal temptations, vices and sins that are contrary to each of the virtues.
5. Concrete paths for growth in the virtues.

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Read, analyze, and explain texts of moral theology.
2. Discuss moral issues persuasively and make effective theological arguments.
3. Identify and understand contrary positions, responding to them with intelligence and charity.
4. Make prudent decisions in their own lives and assist others in prudent decision making: “we have been called to form consciences not to replace them.” (Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 37).

5. “Accompany with patience and mercy” those who struggle to live a virtuous life or who have difficulty accepting some elements of Church teaching. (Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 44)

This course aims to foster the following attitudes:

1. An appreciation of Holy Scripture as the “soul of theology” and the most important source for moral theology (Second Vatican Council, *Optatam Totius*, 16).
2. An awareness of the “loftiness of the calling of the faithful in Christ and the obligation that is theirs of bearing fruit in charity for the life of the world.” (Second Vatican Council, *Optatam Totius*, 16)
3. A sense of moral theology as an “ecclesial science” which “grows in the Church and works on the Church.” A feeling of belonging to the Church and contributing to her prophetic mission (See John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*, 109).
4. Religious docility towards the Magisterium of the Church as a teacher of moral norms and the authentic interpreter of the Word of God (See Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, 25).
5. The desire to become “joyful messengers of challenging proposals, guardians of the goodness and beauty which shine forth in a life of fidelity to the Gospel” (Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 168).

C. REQUIRED TEXTS

The Holy Bible.

Kaczor, Christopher. *Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Love: Edited and Explained for Everyone*. Washington, D.C: Catholic University of America Press, 2020.

Kaczor, Christopher, and Thomas P Sherman. *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues: Edited and Explained for Everyone*. Washington, D.C: Catholic University of America Press, 2020.

Books may be purchased at the UWO Bookstore. Other readings may be distributed to students via OWL.

D. CLASS SCHEDULE

1) January 9 – The Virtues and Pastoral Accompaniment

2) January 16 – Faith

READ: Kaczor, *Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Love*, 7-11, 31-63, 69-72.

3) January 23 - Hope

READ: Kaczor, *Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Love*, 81-93, 105-123.

4) January 30– Charity

READ: Kaczor, *Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Love*, 127-163

5) February 6 – Charity: Acts of Charity, Sins against Charity

READ: Kaczor, *Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Love*, 181-220.

FIRST PAPER DUE TODAY

6) February 13 – Prudence [Practical Reasoning]

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 3-52.

February 20 – READING WEEK

7) February 27th – Justice

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 59-102.

8) March 5 – Sins against Justice

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 123-143, 201-218.

9) March 12 – Religion and other Virtues related to Justice

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 155-199.

SECOND PAPER DUE TODAY

10) March 19 – Fortitude

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 227-260, 287-294.

11) March 26 – Temperance

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 301-311, 327-347, 361-379.

12) April 2 – Humility and Magnanimity

READ: Kaczor and Sherman, *Thomas Aquinas on the Cardinal Virtues*, 267-285, 397-411.

E. ASSESSMENT

1) 20% Participation– Students are expected to participate in class discussion and may be called upon to share their thoughts on the readings. Reading questions will be given in advance of each class to assist students to prepare for the discussion. Students may also participate through the online forum.

2) 40% Two Papers [1250 words each] - Students will resolve a problem using the format of a disputed question. Students will be graded upon their ability to argue for their position, make necessary distinctions, identify objections, and respond to these objections. More details will be given in class.

4) 40% Final Exam – An written exam will be scheduled during the exam period. It will consist of two or three short essays that require the student to synthesize, explain and apply material from the course.

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>

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Accommodation, Illness Reporting, and Academic Considerations

Academic Accommodation

Students with disabilities work with Accessibility Services which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, the instructor is empowered to grant academic considerations without referring the student to their academic counsellors. If an instructor chooses to do so, the mechanism for dealing with missed work (e.g., an extension, make-up opportunity, or reweighting) must be specified on the course outline to ensure fair treatment for all students. Note that in all cases where documentation (medical or otherwise) is required, it can *only* be collected by the Academic Dean's Office.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

By policy, academic considerations for work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade can be granted only by the Academic Dean's Office. Students must provide valid medical or

supporting documentation to the Academic Dean's Office as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical%2015JUN.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Dean's Office as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness – Undergraduate Students](#).

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

2. Support Services

- Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College
- <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>
- Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>
- Mental Health@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

- Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>
- University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

[Note to Seminarians: 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.]

3. Remembrance Day Policy

Two minutes of silence observed on November 11 at 11 am throughout the university and that, where this is not possible, two minutes of silence be observed between 11 am and 12 noon. Students are permitted to be absent from class to attend Remembrance Day Services, provided the instructor is informed in advance of the intended absence.

4. 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, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom

King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices – such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones – 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 electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices 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/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) 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 attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

5. 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, is posted at 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; see <http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

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.

6. Copyright re: Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint 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.

7. Use of Recordings

Remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs, and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.