

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***  
**Winter 2016**

**Moral Theology 5132B / Religious Studies 2238G**  
**Introduction to Moral Theology**

**Course Outline (Tentative)**

Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:20 PM

Room 108, St. Peter's Seminary

Professor: Fr. Murray D. Kuemper

Office Hours by appointment: 519-432-1824, ex. 226; 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. ASSESSMENT

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

Students will respond to three (3) questions provided by the Professor, 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: **January 19, February 2, March 8.**

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

One hour, written, in class **February 9.**

### 3. Research Paper (30% of final grade):

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

A half-page proposal of the topic, including major sources, is to be given to the professor by the end of class on **March 1.** The final paper is due by the end of class on **March 29.**

### 4. Final Exam (35% of final grade):

One of the following:

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

b) *Students in Religious Studies 2238G* – Written take-home exam, given on March 29, due at the end of class on **April 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.

#### **D. REQUIRED TEXTS**

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

JOHN PAUL II, POPE. Encyclical Letter *Veritatis Splendor*, "The Splendor of Truth," 1993.  
Available online at: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_06081993\\_veritatis-splendor.html](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.  
Available online at: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/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.

#### **E. CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS** (Tentative)

January 5

- Introduction; Course Overview; Definition and Basic Questions in Moral Theology
- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-44; also Forward & Intro

January 12

- The Human Person as Moral Agent
- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapter 3, pp. 47-94; *Veritatis Splendor* nos. 6-27

January 19

- Scriptural Foundations of Moral Theology
- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapters 4 & 5, pp. 95-133
- **Reading Assignment #1 due**

January 26

- Scriptural Foundations (continued); Sermon on the Mount
- *Read*: Pinckaers Chapter 6, pp. 134-167

February 2 (Note: On this day, class will begin at 10:00 AM)

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

February 9

- **Mid-term Test (One hour)**
- Nominalism; the Manualist Tradition; Probabilism
- *Read:* Pinckaers Chapters 10& 11, pp. 240-279

February 16 – Reading Week, no class

February 23

- Freedom of Indifference, Freedom for Excellence
- *Read:* Pinckaers Chapters 14 & 15, pp. 327-378

March 1

- Conscience; Truth
- *Read:* *Read:* Pinckaers, "Conscience and Christian Tradition" (handout); Ratzinger, "Conscience and Truth" (handout)
- **Research Paper Proposal due**

March 8

- Law; Sin; The Moral Act
- *Read:* *Veritatis Splendor*, nos. 28-64
- **Reading Assignment #3 due**

March 15

- The Moral Act; Double-Effect; Proportionalism
- *Read:* *Veritatis Splendor*, nos. 65-83

March 22

- Natural Inclinations and Natural Law
- *Read:* Pinckaers Chapter 17, pp. 400-456

March 29

- Virtue and Grace
- *Read:* TBA
- **Research Paper due; Religious Studies 2238G Take-home exam given**

April 5

- Wrap-up and Review
- **Religious Studies 2238G – Take-home exam due**

## **F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulation and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University's website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

### **1. Policies regarding Submission of Assignments and Tests**

a. It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments can be completed on time.

b. Assignments are to be handed in at the class on the due date. Assignments may not be dropped off at King's or submitted electronically.

c. For a serious reason, a student may be granted an extension. On the form provided, the student is to write a brief explanation of the reason for the extension. This is to be signed by the teacher, with the extended date noted. A copy of the extension notice is given to the Dean.

d. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office.

e. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

f. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or the examination, unless approved in advance by Student Services at the University or King's. (This refers to students with disabilities who have permission to use a word processor to write their exams/tests.)

g. Students who miss tests will negotiate a "make-up" date with the professor. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office.

### **2. Internet References**

If references are given from internet sites the exact designation of the site must be given **along with** a hard copy of the page from which the quote is taken or to which the reference is made.

### **3. MLA Style**

The MLA Style (Modern Language Association) is to be used in writing your papers: in the Bibliography/Works Cited and in the quotations in the text.

### **4. University Regulations and Support Services**

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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

**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:

**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.

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

**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.

### **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 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 specifically:**

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

**The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is**

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

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.

**G. 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](http://www.newadvent.org) or [www.dhspriority.org/thomas/summa](http://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.
- BOHR, DAVID. *Catholic Moral Tradition*, Revised ed. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1999.
- 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.
- 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.
- PINCKAERS, SERVAIS, O.P. *Morality: The Catholic View*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2001.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *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.