

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

Moral Theology II
(Moral Theology 5133B)

Course Outline – Winter 2025

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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. (\$46.90 at Dellelce Family Bookstore)

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. (\$46.90 at Dellelce Family bookstore)

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

D. CLASS SCHEDULE

1) January 7 – The Virtues and Pastoral Accompaniment

2) January 14 – Faith

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

3) January 21 - Hope

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

4) January 28 – Charity

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

5) February 4 – Charity: Acts of Charity, Sins against Charity

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

FIRST PAPER DUE TODAY

6) February 11 – Prudence [Practical Reasoning]

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

February 18 – READING WEEK

7) February 25th – Justice

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

8) March 4 – Sins against Justice

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

9) March 11 – 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 18 – Fortitude

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

11) March 25 – Temperance

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

12) April 1 – 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>

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Within this course, generative AI tools are permitted exclusively for checking grammar and spelling. If AI tools are used, students must acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Considerations for Absence/Missed Assessments

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration using the extranet portal (www.extranet.uwo.ca). Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs and further consideration may be denied. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

Academic consideration for examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar always requires documentation.

The policy on academic consideration is found here:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the final examination, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration 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 examination).

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](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

For policy on accommodation for religious holidays, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

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/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@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: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

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/currentstudents/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.

4. 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

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools are permitted in the course, including generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools). Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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

<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/TurnItIn.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.

5. Copyright of 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. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright of their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.