

STMM 504-02 Christian Ethics C
Engineering 307
Spring 2010
April 10 & 11; May 21-22-23

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9:00 am-- -4:30 pm (4/10 & 11, 5/22 & 23)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (5/21)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Catholic tradition has a long and rich heritage of scholarly thought regarding ethical issues. This is a tradition that has consistently sought across the centuries to uphold three central values: the dignity of the human person, the promotion of justice in the world, and the pursuit of a common good. This course is designed to provide Catholic ministry students with an understanding of the framework within which the Catholic ethical traditions have been developed, touching upon sexual and biomedical ethics as well as social ethics. As such, its primary purpose lies in offering students a broad exposure to the breadth of official teaching documents in the areas of sexuality, bioethics and Catholic social thought. Complementing these hierarchical documents are the work of some leading Catholic moral theologians whose writings reflect the ongoing dialogue in Catholic ethics on some challenging ethical issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Re the readings: enable students to gain
 - a. a *wide exposure to official Church teaching documents* in the areas of sexual, familial, biomedical and social ethics
 - b. a familiarity with a methodological framework within which to understand fundamentals of Catholic ethics
 - c. an understanding of the key issues in the contemporary scholarly and pastoral dialogue among Catholic ethicists
2. Re the class sessions: provide *an understanding of the foundations* of Catholic ethics through an appreciation of sources relied upon and methods utilized
3. Re the final exam paper: provide students with tools to *sharpen the pastoral skills* that are needed in order to
 - a. Minister to persons in the ethical challenges of daily life
 - b. Exert a leadership role with communities who are grappling with the ethical challenges that arise from diverse socio-economic and political contexts

GRADING:

1. **Participation:** By this is meant an assessment of the quality of student preparedness and reflective work as evidenced through the questions, insights, and contributions made during our class sessions. My own teaching style is quite interactive and somewhat Socratic so students will have ample opportunity to engage with the material and demonstrate the work that they have put into the course through reflection on the readings. **25% of the final grade.**
2. **Attendance:** Given the limited time of in-person work available to us, it goes without saying that assessing student performance and work requires presence at all sessions. As indicated above, presence itself does not qualify as participation...it simply makes participation possible. Of course, unforeseen emergencies can arise but students would be wise to strive to avoid being absent.
3. **Team presentations :** May 22 and 23 on Catholic Social Thought. Detailed information will be provided during our first weekend class. **25% of grade**
4. **Final Essay Exam:** This will be e-mailed to you prior to the last class day so as to permit in-class questions and clarification. It will be due no later than Friday, June 11, by 9 am. Please send this to me electronically as a Word attachment. **50% of the grade.**

REQUIRED READING : Books

- Margaret A. Farley. Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics. New York: Continuum International Press, 2006. ISBN: 13-978-0-8264-1001-6.
- Richard M. Gula, S.S. Reason Informed by Faith. New York; Paulist Press, 1989. ISBN: 0-8091-3066-1
- Kenneth B. Himes, O.F.M., ed. Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretation. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2005. ISBN: 1-58901-053-1

RECOMMENDED: Book

- Russell B. Connors, Jr. & Patrick T. McCormick. Character, Choices & Community. New York: Paulist Press, 1998. ISBN: 0-8091-3805-0

REQUIRED READING: Church Teaching Documents:

[These Church documents are available online at such sites as “Papal Encyclicals Online,” the website of the United States Catholic Conference].

Sexual and Familial and Bioethics:

- Pope Paul VI** “On the Regulation of Birth” (*Humanae Vitae*). 1968.
- CDF,** “Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons” 1986
- Pope John Paul II (1978-2005)** “The Splendor of Truth” (*Veritatis Splendor*). 1993
- “On The Value and Inviolability of Human Life” *Evangelium Vitae*). 1995
- CDF,** “Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions” *Dignitatis Personae* (2008)

Social Ethics:

- Pope Leo XIII** “On the Condition of the Working Classes” (*Rerum Novarum*). 1891.
- Pope Pius XI (1922-1939)** “On Reconstruction of the Social Order” (*Quadragesimo Anno*). 1931.
- Pope John XXIII (1958-1963)** “Christianity and Social Progress” (*Mater et Magistra*). 1961.
- “Peace on Earth” (*Pacem in Terris*). 1963.
- Vatican Council II (1962-1966)** “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” (*Gaudium et Spes*) 1965.
- Pope Paul VI (1963-1978)** “On the Development of Peoples” (*Populorum Progressio*) 1967.
- ” On the 80th Anniversary” (*Octagesima Adveniens*). 1971.
- Synod of Bishops** “Justice in the World” 1971.

- Pope John Paul II** “On Human Work” (*Laborem Exercens*). 1981.
(1978-2005)
- “On Social Concerns” (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*). 1987.
- “One Hundred Years” (*Centesimus Annus*) 1991.

Pope Benedict XVI, “Love in Truth,” (*Caritatis in Veritate*). 2009
(2005-)

Prep Work Prior to Weekends I and II

*Since the course meets for two weekends only, it is of necessity an intensive. It will require **extensive preparatory reading** on the part of the student in order to gain maximum benefit from the class sessions themselves. The following reading schedule will best prepare the student for the weekend class sessions. Prior to each class session, students will receive via e-mail outlines of the class sessions in order to facilitate note-taking along with additional materials to guide your reading.*

Weekend 1: April 10 and 11

Read the following preferably in this order:

- Richard Gula , ***REASON INFORMED BY FAITH***
- The 5 official Church teaching documents listed above under the required reading section entitled “Sexual, Familial and Bioethics,”
- Margaret Farley, ***JUST LOVE***.
- For supplementary reading, time permitting, read as much of Connors and McCormick as you can
- As you read, keep an “Ethics Intellectual Log” that helps you identify questions and insights gleaned from your readings.
- The importance of this Log is:
 - A. to make notes on the readings for yourself for future reference
 - B. to make connections between what you are reading and the class discussions
- This Log will be a useful tool for your own input during our class sessions and for reference in writing the final essay exam at the end of the quarter.
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Weekend II: May 2-3-4

- Note: Finish whatever of the readings for Weekend I that you were unable to complete in advance. (I recommend that you save Farley to last and so, if time is tight, read the Farley volume after Weekend I).

- Read at least the following Church teaching documents listed above under “Social Ethics:” along with the corresponding essay in the Himes volume which will explicate and analyze these documents:
 1. *Rerum Novarum*
 2. *Quadragesimo Anno*
 3. *Mater et Magistra*
 4. *Pacem in Terris*
 5. *Gaudium et Spes*
 6. *Populorum Progressio*
 - . *Octagesima Adveniens*)
- Continue to keep Log entries as described above for Weekend I
- Prepare your team’s project for in-class presentation in May 22 and 23 (directions to be provided during Weekend I)

Following Weekend II:

- Finish reading the rest of this corpus on Catholic Social Thought along with the corresponding essays in the Himes volume.
- Review your Log notes and class notes in preparation for the final exam paper.
- Write the final exam paper.
- The final exam paper will be sent via e-mail no later than Friday, June 11 at 9am.