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Course Description
This is a seminar course that will examine human sexuality from the perspective of the Roman Catholic tradition. We will investigate core principles and teachings about Christian anthropology and human sexuality. The course will read and analyze the core documents of the Church on human sexuality, as well as other resources, in order to understand the Church’s teaching on marriage, family life, celibacy, and biomedical issues related to these topics.

DSPT Institutional Goals:
Deep Learning
Knowledge of facts, details, concepts, and terminology that students will become familiar with in this course

Collaborative Leadership
A collaborative leader inspires within others the desire to realize the common good by articulating to academy or society a coherent vision rooted in the mission of the Church, all the while leading by example.

As a philosophical and theological school we believe that at the end of this course students who apply integrative thinking, cultivate intellectual humility, and maintain good self direction they will develop a solid foundation of the topics explored by this specific course and discover ways for the application of this knowledge through further research, teaching or pastoral care.

Course Goals: At the end of the course students will be able to

1. Integrate their understanding of natural law, virtue, and human flourishing with the Church’s teaching of human sexuality and principles of bio-medical ethics

2. Attain a good foundation of the Catholic Church’s teaching on Marriage, Family, and Celibate Life.

3. Offer critique and insight about contemporary debates concerning human sexuality, marriage, family, religious life, and related biomedical challenges.

4. Recognize how the Church teachings contribute to the formation of the faithful in their particular vocations in Church and society.
Course Requirements
1. Attendance and Preparation of Readings for Classes. Students will attend all class meetings. Absences from these sessions will affect their final grade. (30% of grade)

2. Class Discussion Leader (15% of grade)

3. Writing: THREE short papers. (2,000 words)
   Style: Follow Turabian Format. 12pt Times Roman Font. Double spaced. Use footnotes and include bibliography or works cited for each assignment
   
   Due Dates: October 19, November 23, and December 24

   General Topics: Each paper based on our topics in sections I, II, III or IV
   a. Teaching Human Sexuality in a Pluralistic Society
   b. Marriage and Family
   c. Catholics with Same-Sex Attraction
   d. Sexuality and Social Justice

Course Materials

The course readings will help us meet the goals articulated in the course description. These documents, books, articles, case studies and media presentations offer insights that will help us deepen our understanding of human sexuality. Official Catholic teaching on human sexuality is well represented in these materials. I have also included writings and lectures by various theologians who interpret these teachings.


Church Documents and other materials will be made available through use of the library reserve or blackboard systems or these websites:
   Vatican www.vatican.va   US Bishops www.usccb.org

Additional Readings on Moodle. The materials will be reproduced and electronically distributed pursuant to the “Fair Use” (sec 107) and the Technology, Education, and
Copyright Law (U.S. Code, title 17) Articles and Chapters listed is for one time use only in this course.

Video and Internet Resources: These materials are listed below according to themes and topics. All of these materials are in the public domain.

Reference Materials: These texts are available at GTU library


Scott, Kieran and Harold Daly Horell, Human Sexuality in the Catholic Tradition. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007
Course Topics and Assignments

I. Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality: General Introduction

September 14
What is sexuality? What are the foundations for Catholic sexual ethics? What is psychosexual development? What is the relationship between care of the body, human sexuality, and our call to Christian discipleship?

Narratives/Case Study
Look at this Case Study found on this website:
http://www.scu.edu/r//ethics-center/ethicsblog/thebigq/11878/Sleeping-Around

What would you say about Mike’s position? Pay CLOSE attention to the replies/commentaries of the college students responding to this case. These entries reveal a lot about young people and sexuality

Documents:

Video: Reflect on this presentation by Father Coleman. What is our understanding of sexuality and current concerns?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkF_gV21XMo

Articles/Chapters:
Ashley, Deblois, and O’Rourke, Chapters 1 and 2 “Bio-medical Ethics” and “Ethics and Needs of the Human Person”

Cahill, Chapters 1 and 2 “Sex, Gender, and the Problem of Moral Argument” and “Feminism and Foundations”

Laverdiere, Chapter 1 “Human Sexuality and the Witness of the New Testament” (See moodle)

September 21 and September 28
How is our growth in goodness rooted in a freedom for excellence? What is the relationship between virtue, human sexuality, and care of the body?

Narrative/Case Studies
View this video—The Great Divorce: Sexual Ethics and Human Flourishing
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVmgoSVnEFU

Documents:
USCCB, Human Sexuality, Chapters 3, 4
Articles/Chapters
Cahill, Chapter 3 and 4 “Particular Experiences, Shared Goods” “The Body in Context”

(See moodle):
Cates, “Temperance” in *Ethics of Aquinas*. This article is an overview of Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, II-II, q. 141-170 on “Temperance.” (on Moodle)
Genovesi, Chapter 4 "A Context for the Meaning and Morality of Sexuality"
Lamoureux and Wadell, Chapter 5, “The Virtues”
Sheldrake, Chapter 2, “Spirituality and Sexuality”

**II: Human Sexuality and Character: Marriage, Family and Vowed Life**

**October 5 and October 12**
Matrimony: What is marital sexuality according to the Catholic Church’s teaching? How do you understand matrimony as a sacrament? How are married persons called to virtue? How are they ministers for the Church and society?

Narratives/Case Studies
View Case Study about Divorce on Moodle
To do the analysis of the case, you are Greg preparing to meet this couple who are members of your church. Address the ethics related to sex and marriage, divorce, child custody, and the roles of minister/counselor/mediator.

Documents:
*Gaudium et spes*
http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html

http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html

Articles/Chapters
Cahill, Chapters 5 “Sex, Gender, and the Early Church.”

(See moodle):
Kasper, Walter “The Sacramental Dignity of Marriage”
October 19

Family
Narratives/Case Studies
Documents

Familiaris Consortio (22 November 1982) Apostolic Exhortation Pope John Paul II

Report on 2015 Family Gathering in Philadelphia
http://usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/papal-visit-2015/2015-papal-visit-catechetical-resources.cfm

http://www.walkwithfrancis.org

2015 Synod on Family and Married Life

Full document:

Articles/Chapters
Cahill, Chapter 6 “Sex, Marriage, and Family in Christian Tradition”

November 2

Birth Technologies
Narratives/Case Studies


Articles and Chapters:
Ashley, Deblais, and O’Rourke, Chapter 3, “Sexuality and Reproduction”

Austriaco, Biomedicine and Beatitude, Chapter 3 “Bioethics and Human Procreation” (on Moodle)

Cahill, Chapter 7, “New Birth Technologies and the Public Argument”
November 9
Celibacy: Priesthood and Religious Life

Narratives/Case Studies

Documents

APOTOLIC EXHORTATION


Review of Constitutions (Class participants particular religious order)

Articles/Chapters: (See moodle)
Scott and Horell, Chapter 9, “The Gift of Celibacy”

O’Murchu, Chapter 2, “The Nature of Vowed Commitment” and Chapter 3 “Celibacy: Is Nonviolent Sexuality Possible?”

### III: Human Sexuality: Same-Sex Attraction, Bisexuality, and Transgender Persons

November 16 and November 23
What is same-sex attraction, transgender identity, and bisexuality? What are the Church teachings and what should be the Church’s pastoral outreach?

Narratives/Case Studies

Video: *Growing up Trans*
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/growing-up-trans/

Documents:


b. *Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers* (10 September 1997) Statement of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on Marriage and Family
c. *Ministry to Persons with Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care*

Articles/Chapters (See Moodle)
Cameli, Louis, “Homosexually Inclined Persons Authentically Living Out their Sexuality”
Callahan, Sidney, “Homosexuality, Moral Theology and Scientific Evidence”
Coleman, Gerald, *Homosexuality: Catholic Teaching and Pastoral Practice*. Chapters 1 and 8
Farley, Margaret “An Ethic for Same-Sex Relations”
Whitehead, James and Evelyn, “Transgender Lives: From Bewilderment to God’s Extravagance”

**IV: Church as Educator and Advocate**

*December 7 and December 14*

**How does the Church promote a holistic understanding of sexuality and human development? How do we witness to this holistic approach?**

Topics:
Abortion; Pedophilia in the Church; Cyber-sex and Human Trafficking;
Reconstructing and Modifying the Human Body
Medical Health Programs

Narratives/Case Studies

Documents:
USCCB, *Human Sexuality* Chapter 5

Articles and Chapters
Ashley, Debois, and O’Rourke, Chapters 4 and 5. “Reconstructing and Modifying the human Body: Ethical Perspectives” and “Mental Health: Ethical Perspectives,” and 7 “Social Responsibility”

(See moodle):
Grabowski, *Sex and Virtue*, Chapter 7 “Teaching Sex: Education, Sexuality, and Character”
Selling, Chapter 9 “The Development of Catholic Tradition and Sexuality”